

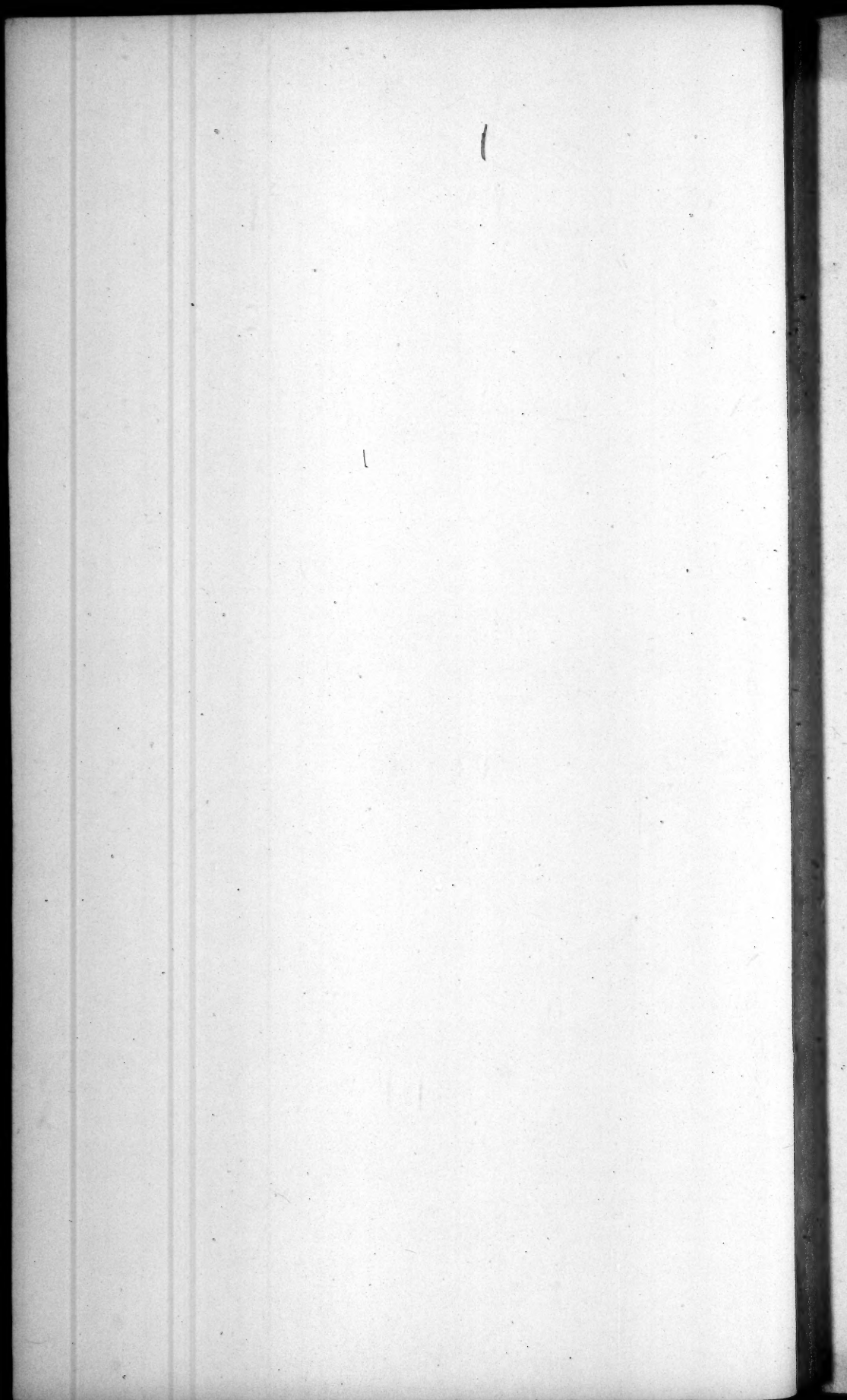


JOHN LUDFORD Esq.



JOHN LUDFORD Esq.





012618 df7

THE
S E D A N.
A
N O V E L.

IN WHICH
Many NEW and ENTERTAINING
CHARACTERS are introduced.

——— *Quæque ipse miserrima vidi*
Et quorum pars magna fui.

VIRG.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:
Printed for R. BALDWIN, in Pater-noster-Row.
MDCCLVII.

THE NEW AND IMPROVED

A

NOVEL

IN THREE

Parts New and Improved
Chicago and London



THE

NEW

IN TWO VOLUMES

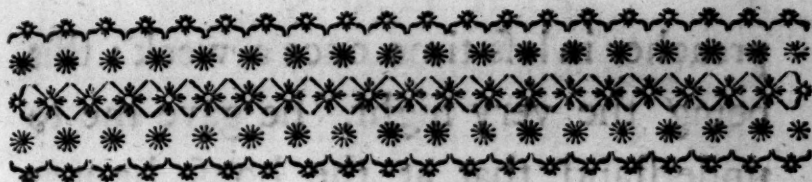
VOL. II

—————

LONDON

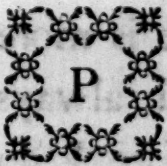
Printed by R. Baldwin in Strand

MDCCLXII



THE
S E D A N.

CHAP. I.

 ADDY having sprain'd his
P ankle, was not very desirous of
business this morning, and so
we both lounged away the time, after the
example of our betters, till evening; we
were then beckoned to by an officer, as
I imagined, till he gave me to under-
stand that he was only a life guardman,
and earned as much money as a temple-

VOL. II.

B

preacher

preacher in less time once a week : this being the very night, he gave me to understand that at the house he was going to, he was to meet a city lady in a dark room, whose face he never saw, though he well knew her purse and person. Whether the woman was unhappily married, or chose to divert herself this way, I cannot say, but she singled me out on guard at Whitehall above twenty weeks ago, and ever since that time we have met once a week, as we shall now ; she is more punctual than myself, and I always have a mask tied on me before I go up stairs. What secret histories there are in this great city ! This gentleman's arrival prevented further discoveries, but he left me to imagine what pranks are play'd by those who wear very demure faces and venerable cloaths

at

at home. We were not idle long ; a female player engaged us to go about soliciting for her benefit, so we had business enough. The airs she gave herself when in the chair, compared to the humility without, was so strange that I could hardly believe it one and the same person. Those who gave gold were hardly thanked, but a few who gave silver were finely handled. What ! says she, so I must curtsy to a parcel of pitiful shopkeepers for a paltry box-ticket ? 'tis well I have other helps. Lord ! the stage, like most of the genteel professions, is absolutely come to nothing : I have known the time when twenty tickets and twenty guineas went hand in hand, and perhaps nineteen burnt before my face. Now, I'll consider you—pray leave your tickets—I'll endeavour to

dispose of a few—the times are hard—scarce ready money to go to market, and the like. What's this to a woman of fancy, genius, wit, elegance, expence, and taste, like me? Why, I have wash'd my hands in a bottle of champain before now, and bath'd in a bottle of lavender-water, but not through such generous folks as these this morning: a pack of ignorant, unfeeling, senseless, empty, miserable, and inanimate beings—no ideas—*canaille, canaille*, or, in English, grub-worms, grub-worms—yet these leaden-pated animals will subscribe a guinea or two to a stupid lecturer, with his poach'd eggs of eyes turned up to heaven. Well, the age is come to nothing, the world is turn'd topsy-turvey—no taste, fashion, genius, or *bon gout* left. I'll go home and change
my

my dress, for I hate to be seen above three hours in one gown. I was neither glad or sorry to lose my guest, and we soon parted.

B 3 CHAP.

C H A P. II.

OUR first salute this morning was a young gentleman in deep mourning, who, as he seated himself, bid us go to Doctors commons. He soon began—Faith the old buck held it out amazingly; I thought he would have tip'd off with the inflammation in his eyes ten years ago. I do sincerely believe some people can live out of spite, or kill themselves, when willing. Thus all the prime of my life has been consumed in want and misery: many a girl have I lost for the lack of a poor paltry guinea, when that scoundrel my father had hundreds by him: but a guinea! why, he would say, in his slow dialect, a guinea is the interest of an hundred pounds of lawful money of

of Great-Britain for a quarter of a year, and so the fool would reason. Well, as Shakespear says, by the mouth of Falstaff, It is as impossible to separate old age and covetousness as young limbs and leachery. I think he can't come to life again, though I almost fear it, as happiness is never certain to us, particularly to me. He will find it difficult to rise and get out again, for the masons have, as they tell me, turn'd a double arch over him. I was once foolishly fond of plays, poetry, songs, madrigales, and all the jargon of fanciful heads and empty pockets, but I declare there is more musick in this paper I am going with to the Commons, than ever Shakespear gave me. Let me read a little—Item, my estate at Reading, lying on the east side of the Thames, and stretching west

from the red bridge to the Kennet. Oh! heavenly—there's epics, heroics, sapphic, pastorella, and all in one. Then he talks of his woods just afterwards, and his fisheries. Why, nothing, in my mind, was ever truly poetical without trees and water. The young gentleman's arrival prevented a great deal more, but I imagine so much to the same purpose, that the reader may pretty well guess the sequel. While we were preparing to go towards St. Paul's, in order to stand a better chance of a fare back to our favourite end of the town, a gentleman prevented our asking him any questions, by beginning himself—My lads, says he, I am lame, as you see; I have a visit of some consequence to make as far as Grosvenor-square, which, if I miss paying, perhaps I
may

may lose my bread. I am soliciting a small place, in return for thirty years service to, I fear, very ungrateful masters, and I will honestly tell you I have not enough to pay you in full, but will give you all I have about me. Prithee get in, says Paddy, and thou art so honest a fellow, that, if the gentleman should not be at home, we'll come and fetch you every morning till he is. Rank and shew too often get respect, and you shall never appear at his door like a poor petitioner, while we with an hour's labour can make you look rich. Well, my noble master, what street? South-Audley, says he. As he sat down he was so shy, having been long oppress'd with sorrow and expectation, to draw the curtains, lest any one should ill naturedly say, and such there are, that the fellow there

had better pay his debts, or give bread to his children, than fling it away in chair-hire. An alderman of the city passing by gave him such a look, that he imagined, when he saw his lips move, he spoke something to that purpose, though he could not hear it particularly. What a world we live in! By this time we arrived, and Paddy bow'd as low at his quitting the chair as if he had got a double fare from a green frock buck upon the town going to the Shakespear, and cry'd, Shall I wait, an please your honour? The footmen now were cunning enough to be civil, and, having done his business, he returned, and let us know, that the foolish gentleman made no scruple of granting his favour, now adding, that he lov'd to be respected, and that till hitherto I had waited

waited on him like a common beggar. I pleaded necessity, to which he cruelly answered, that he had rather people would run in debt for cloaths, equipage, and elegance, than appear little, as he call'd it. I did not dare to say that what he call'd little I thought *great*, which was not to make a figure at other's expence. The gentleman tap'd at the window the moment he was got clear of the street, and, telling us where he lived, begged to reward such honest boys, as he ever after called us.

C H A P. III.

HOW times and seasons alter! said a gentleman when he had placed himself in the chair, and bid us go to the great hall, I mean the hall of great mischief, great expence, great misery, great lying, great caballing, great persecution, and very great oppression—I, for at least five years after I began the profession, thought with myself that a new plan in the business must inevitably succeed. I tried it, having some little fortune to support me during the experiment, besides what I expected by my practice; I began by undertaking all *pauper* causes, by endeavouring to protect innocence, help the injured, to prevent law-suits, and

and never was so happy as when I carried news of an accommodation to a distressed but worthy family; yet I found it difficult even to get the common fees on the occasion—still they thought it was pity it was made up—that they had the undoubted right every body told them, and were sure, if I had not compounded and settled the affair, they should have got the whole to themselves, after so much injustice done them. These were the returns. Then, in tedious conveyances, I was for comprising the whole in a few words, and not telling such a long story as my brethren of the quill. Well, the profession of course condemn'd me, and the parties, though not to my face, would often, as if I heard, say—Why, I think it cannot be

be so safe and good a conveyance as what we once had before — I remember there were ten large sheets or skins of parchment on the occasion; and so they chang'd their lawyer — but, after five years experience, and sinking my little fortune almost to the last guinea, at present I thrive admirably well. Stay, I have now near seventy causes at common law, some of them infant ones, others near expiration, but, thanks to the glorious spirit of some folks, and the delicious uncertainty of law in general, as they go off they will be replaced I do not doubt. When they talk of accommodating matters now, I laugh, and say, I wish then for their sakes I had never undertaken it, for I have entered so very deeply into your concerns,

cerns, that I have scarce had a night's sleep this month, for I am convinced of your right in the affair, and therefore doubt not a verdict in your favour. I have often said this when I privately knew the contrary; but I must live, and I see I can very well now, though I starved before. Then I preach up to my patients, for I think they deserve that title as well as those who are under medicinal hands, and I secretly call them so, that a verdict is a publick affair, and proves they have had a victory. They generally swallow this pill without any gilding at all, especially widows and maiden aunts, who love law after a certain age as dearly as they would have done something else, if they had not been thwarted when young. We now arrived at the great hall's great door, and,

and, our burden having truly been a very heavy one, we bid adieu to business for an hour by consent, and went to salute the alderman †.

† A cant-word for going to an ale-house.

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

OUR noble-hearted guest the other day set Paddy often into a reverie of thinking, that, would people's pride once suffer them to be open, fair, and honest, many advantages must result from it. Why need a man be ashamed of poverty? says he: 'tis a lot that falls as accidentally to some people as riches to others. I declare I had more pleasure in carrying that honest man for nothing the other day, as it then appeared to us, tho' he has generously paid us since, than all the tinsil gentlemen on the town: but these chaps, with their fine trappings, are often, rather than own their distress, set down at thorough-fare taverns; and indeed twice at Westminster-

minster-hall we felt the ill consequence of its having another way out. Chair, your honour, who calls a chair? Nobody did that I heard of, but habit is so prevailing that it slips from them as innocently as common oaths from the mouths of grenadiers. But, at last a well-dress'd lady, with a remarkable blooming complexion, stopt us, and in an instant making her hoop answer the end of window-curtains, by smothering her face under them, she bid me go to a certain house in Leicester-fields.---If you can read, says she, you'll see over the door, which house I mean; and then began: Revenge! says she, is sweet, even where you punish the innocent for the guilty. I remember, says she, I have been honest enough to tell my customers, that my health was uncertain; tho' to my knowledge I was not sure of any symptom leaning that way.

way: and how was I rewarded, perhaps kick'd down stairs pennyless and supperless, and forced to walk home in the rain, with a quere, at parting, of a particular kind---What the devil did you come here for, then? Tears and remonstrances were all in vain. The waiter was first knock'd down for fetching a bad commodity, as it is called, in the trade; and the chairman very narrowly escaped the same fate, tho' as innocent as the pen is of murder that writes the dead warrant. From this time she sat out on the plan of the lawyer yesterday, and vowed vengeance on the whole race of mankind. I think, says she (pulling out her snuff-box, with a mirror on the inside of the lid) nobody can find me out to-day, and am sure I will not declare the secret: besides, a surgeon promises me medicine and advice, gratis, if I will
but

but spread the disorder, for the benefit of the profession in general; for, says he, they must go somewhere among us. And, tho' I hate the individuals sufficiently for their persecutions, and attacks on my nostrum for the disorder; yet, I would promote the trade too. By this time the blooming guest tapp'd at the window, and we left her to betray, as she had been betrayed. I wish I could have told the secret, and burn'd to do it; but that would have spoil'd all my joy and business ever after.

CHAP.

C H A P. V.

TO-day's first employ was a gentleman, something like a physician, but he was only a surgeon. As soon as seated, he began, Why I remember walking, says he, from one end of the town to the other to bleed from a crown to a shilling; for I dared not refuse, as my washer-woman, barber, and shoe-boy, (the three necessary officers of a bachelor's household) were generally very suspicious, and rather impudent towards the end of the week: but since I kept a chariot (which God only knows how it is supported, or rather supports itself, my motto being *Vires acquirit eundo*) I get a guinea for breathing a vein, and often more. The world don't know that I keep horses
by

by the week only, and so I often save a month by complaining of a poor lame beast, or a perch broke, and then I take a shilling's worth of Sedan (as I do to-day) and all goes as well ! My coach, my Lady, is painting, says I to one ; to another, Don't you remember my dear horse, my Lord, by heaven's ! he pulled the coachman from his box yesterday, and had like to have overfet the navigation—you'll therefore pardon me waiting on you in this manner ;—thus I go on. Being known once to have had my chariot, I am always suppos'd to have it, which is a great mistake ; for I have scarce rode in it these three weeks. Master Donaldson and I are cousins. I do suppose by this (tho' I never could learn) that master Donaldson, as he called him, was a stable-keeper somewhere, and very friendly to his countrymen, or relations, and
so

so we parted : for I believe he walk'd home, by the scheme he seem'd to lay of œconomy, whenever he could put it in practice. Well ! and I don't blame the world ; any thing is better than bilk-ing, says Paddy. Within a few yards we were bargain'd with by the time, or the ground, by a very fat lady, whom we refused as to the first, and so she quarrell'd about the latter. Paddy had not forgot his burthen the other day to Westminster-Hall, and, indeed, so much business had been done within a few months, that we were forced to send our Sedan to the physicians, to order something for its relief, as it grew weak of body. We went immediately to the maker's in Coventry-street, where I was left for a week to be refitted ; during which time, my two attendants went to see their relations, and I was placed (disagreeable situation
enough

enough to an active mind) in the common shop, where I dreaded hearing the rascally workmen singing paltry songs, or telling most stupid and unentertaining stories; but things took a more favourable turn, for I had more pleasure and room for observation here, than ever I had abroad: this the reader will soon find,---and find with me, that my confinement was better than liberty.

C H A P.

C H A P. VI.

THE very first morning after my being placed in a corner here, 'till materials were ready for me; and by the bye, like the world shov'd into a corner to give place to my gaudy betters; no less than ten capital Sedans being then finishing for the great, I overheard some things that made me smile; others, that vex'd me. The opening of the shop us'd to be troublesome and noisy in general; and indeed this, but too often, gave way to as bad a noise from the several ingenious or bungling artificers there. Well! as I say, the first morning very early, the maid who was to open the door was called a little sooner than ordinary, by a gentle tap at the kitchen window; this was no other

than a proper and faithful messenger to carry off all the broken meat of the house, some coals in a tub, artfully covered with cinders, for fear of prying and examining eyes, and candles not much consumed, having been lighted perhaps only for one game at cards, or so ; but the messenger had not entirely perform'd her duty, for having called at a distiller's before she came, and taken a glass or two of that, *that is* (according to their dialect) she forgot to tap at the kitchen window as usual, and by mistake knock'd gently at the street door : the master of the house had like to have been a gainer by it ; for, by this means the woman might have been turn'd off, had not Mrs. Betty been of a very forgiving and merciful nature, by which means a fresh correspondence was settled, and an alliance offensive and defensive continued between the parties.

parties. But tho' the master, as I said before, might have been a gainer, it would have no longer than while Mrs. Betty would have found another as faithful in her interest, which would have been the case in two days at farthest. After the shop was open'd, half the valet de chambres and maitre d'hôtels in London came; and when I could overhear them talk, the words generally were, *My usual fees*—you know, I ask nothing but what is customary;—'tis our undoubted right--*poundage*! for service is no inheritance, and we must make hay while the sun shines. Sometimes a whisper went on, which by the consequences of delaying to send a sedan home (tho' very completely finish'd) I found to be a hint, that his master, or Sir William, or my lord, or his grace, (for we must not go higher) was not a safe man, as they call it; by which

means a double fee accrued immediately, and the tradesman was afterwards to find a reason for the delay, which I don't doubt but he did, as their natural inclination, and the frauds they meet with, so well instruct them to find a thousand—to make way for a new piece of work for my lord of——, who sometimes *pays a tradesman to make him stare* (as Mr. Pope says) put me so out of the way of hearing further, that I remained melancholy all the rest of the day, only in hopes of recovering my place again next morning.

C H A P. VII.

AS I really wish'd, so it fortunately happened ; for there was a general remove of all the goods in the shop, and the materials being ready, I was brought near the door to be refitted. Here I had fine room for speculation ; I could hear what people said in the street as they pa's'd to and again. Two servant-maids reading a play-bill pasted up against the door, said, My dear, I will explain the affair to you, for I have lived in town longer than you—This Romeo is Juliet's sweetheart, and the family are greatly against the match ; and, I suppose, they never pay her any fortune (like parents in general on those occasions) so that I fancy their untimely end,—(for Oh ! I

once saw the play) is owing to their running in debt after the marriage, and not being able to support the expence, which I know by my last place must be very great; they give out other reasons in the play, as one does in common life, for the matter of that; for, would I tell where I am now going, Betty, unless I chose it? So that his banishment is little better than being a bankrupt, and afraid of his creditors. I can see thro' it all! for I was at a charity-school, and had a very good education afterwards, tho' now, indeed, I am down a little in the world, by the base usage of capt. ———; you know who I mean. The finest part is what they call the procession, and the burying;—there's all the finging folks attend, and such plenty of links and torches, that I never saw the like even when our dear Sir Watkin, the parliament-man, died.

Well!

Well! I have a friend there that can get an order, I believe, for the upper gallery; as among friends, I have granted him many a favour: but, if not, I'll treat you, 'tis easily fetch'd up again, as I market for the family I live in. When I came to be hired, you must know, I told my mistress I expected to have the marketting, as her wages and vails were so small; when she said, That is as much as to say, child! that you are to cheat me out of the difference. Well! you see I'm lame and cannot help myself; so if you cheat me, you'll be punish'd in the next world severely for it. Ah! says I, privately, I'll run a score for the next world, so I can but live well in this:—and, indeed, I generally get a crown a week by the job of marketting: besides, as my mistress never weighs any thing, I generally take off some few ounces of the butter, and as

I was bred up in a dairy, I work it up again (having a mould of my own, and a counterpart of the market-woman's stamps) so I defy her to find me out. She has her wine from the tavern, and out of every bottle, good naturedly, gives me a large tumbler-glass: I set this all by privately, and, by degrees, have thus a whole bottle ready at hand; and, if she complains of its being dead at once, I cry, Oh! madam, I am told (tho' am no judge of those things) that your sharp or sweet Wines are not the best, but your flattish wines are more wholesome, and prove the age of it; by this time a third join'd company, who had the honour to be of their acquaintance. She had a deal-box, without a hinge, under her arm, so big as not to be able almost to grasp it, and had prudently tied it round with a garter, on which I saw a scrap of a motto,

motto, or posie, from a very old song—
the man who ventures furthest. They
 soon began, Where now, my dear De-
 borah? when did you leave your place?
 To-day, says she—yes, about an hour
 since, without any quarrel:—no, no,
 only I have heard of a better; and as
 I love music, and 'tis a chearful situa-
 tion, I shall go to it immediately;—'tis
 next Ranelagh-house, and as I have
 been to see the premises, I can assure
 you 'tis true: I can hear the music as
 plain in the back kitchen, as if I was in
 the garden; so, while they (for they are
 good-natured people, and of course ea-
 sily deceived) think I am at work, I
 am in my element; but I tell them
 I hate music—that I think is politic
 enough, else they would give me leave
 to hear it, and truly, I hate to ask or ac-
 cept of any thing—Oh! liberty is a
 sweet thing; you know the song,—I

shall stay there till the season is over, and then come among you again, my dears—they are too generous to hinder me serving myself, when I tell them I can better my situation; otherwise I should find it difficult to get away, as they seldom give servants any cause of complaint; yet what can we do?—I want to see the world, and the place (pleasant as it now is) will be dull enough towards the winter, when I shall make my leg and away, tho', indeed, it will go against me. The delight the husband of the family expresses in gardening, and cultivating his fruits and flowers, and the hospitality he shews to strangers, on his side; and the great humanity the ladies (for there are two) bestow on all their dumb-creatures, will make it difficult to me to part with them, I know:—but our motto is well known at our club, *every*

one

one for himself,---you know the rest.
 But say the two, who have been silent
 these ten minutes (for her tongue was
 so flippant, that she hurried all the fore-
 going off in that time, and more too
 could I have remembered it) how are
 you dispos'd this evening? We have a
proposhal to make to you:—your box
 shall be left at a *friend's* of our's, and
 we'll treat you to a play. They very
 soon agreed, and by this means I lost
 many further anecdotes of families,
 which I am sure the kind reader would
 have liked as well as myself; however,
 I heard them say before they went, that
 they would first call at the distiller's,
 to take a glass, and also a bottle of the
 good creature to *squench* their thirsts at
 the play: and it was further agreed, on
 their honours, and they repeated it again
 and again, that if any gentleman or
 gentlemen were to take a fancy to
 them,

them, they were to divide company instantly to carry the affair on better, and afterwards account fairly (as co-partners and joint-traders) for the profits of the evening. Our shop was very soon afterwards shut up, so that I lost all pleasure from passengers, and only heard oaths, vile songs sung to viler tunes, and plots without end from the several workmen and apprentices against their master, too common and too tedious to trouble the reader with—and so I break off for the present.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

THE first thing that happened this morning, was the maid telling one of the journeymen, her favourite, that all the family would be out of town that night, and begging his company as usual. She said, I know of old that you will be late, so I shall leave the door on the latch ; should any one come in but yourself, why I don't care-- I shall stay here no longer that Christmas ; and if any thing is lost, you can with a hammer and chissel spoil the lock, so as if it had been broke open by a highwayman ; but I hope it will not happen. Do John, my dear John ! be punctual. By his eager kiss I do suppose he was ; tho' I could hear nothing of words between them. The window-shutters being all taken down,

and day-light pretty well come on, I was placed at the door to have the operation of new nails drove into my poor sides, back, and belly : I heard much, nay more than if I had been employ'd in my business, as there only one person at a time is talking. Here were groupes passing or standing still, waiting to cross the way, or merely for the pleasure of gossiping. I saw a serjeant in the guards seize a poor young deserter, and he said to himself, Thank God for this windfall ! I wanted to pay my rent, and this will effectually do it. A bailiff very closely pursued another poor fellow close to me, when one of the workmen in the shop (who had learnt to feel for others, by having felt himself) slipped him into a sedan chair, then unfinish'd, and covering the chair with a cloth (which was at hand) the officer, who had pursued him into the
very

very house, went backwards, thinking the fellow had been there, when an arch-dog confirmed it by saying, Faith, I did not know who or what he was ; but I saw him set his foot on the water-tub, there in the corner of the yard, and so climb up the spout, 'till he escaped over the back-warehouse. Away went the fellow after him, and it was no disagreeable thing to the multitude when he fell backwards and stunn'd himself by the fall. The moment he recovered himself a little, he had the impudence not to ask pardon or forgiveness for his rude entry, but to demand assistance ; but they soon turn'd him out at the door, long before which time the poor prisoner had escaped. The next thing that happened was a droll fellow, who planted himself with his back to the door, and began to sing eighteen ballads for the price of a half-penny !

penny ! I found by his own account how little genius was rewarded, for he swore he had wrote most of them himself, and had scarce sold enough to buy a dinner in Liver-lane, where the ordinary is but two-pence, bread and small-beer included ; but luckily, a good-natur'd and long-rob'd counsellor passing by in his chariot, he stopp'd to hear him, and bought one ; the fellow knowing his mark, said, Ah ! my noble master ! you plead and I sing :—'tis all for the same reason, and all leads to the same end,---our stomachs. We must eat, and whether 'tis mutton or venison, food must be had. You talk law, I sing stanzas, 'twill be all the same one hundred years hence. The noble counsellor fell a laughing, and buying all his stock in trade for his wit and impudence, both which he loved ;

loved ;—cried, Go on coachman to Westminster-Hall, that I may get mutton, as my honest friend says, tho' not exactly the same way.

CHAP.

C H A P. VIII.

A Serjeant's guard pass'd by early this morning, and one of the fellows talking a little oddly, the serjeant said, What! do you mutiny here? *reduce* that fellow: this was taking off his cap, and putting on an hat——this was all that pass'd; but it threw me in a reflection, how the pompousness and importance of words often carries a man thro' danger and fatigue too. Thus, a true soldier would be devilish angry (if I understand the trade right) to be ordered to dig in the ditches, but give them the name of trenches, and he will go thro' more pain, labour, and hard weather, than any Battersea gardener in the uncertain month of March. Again, a trooper would be very angry (and never forgive his officer

cer) was he order'd to curry his horse; but give it the name of dressing him; and he does it at once. A soldier is never to own he is tired of *marching*; but when he is no longer a soldier, and broke, he grows very much fatigued with *walking*, and owns it. Call a common garret his quarters, and the old fellow sleeps very well: give the apartment the true name of lodgings, and his happiness is at end; for he can neither eat, drink, or sleep with comfort there afterwards. A soldier never lives well, but is subsisted; and under the word subsistence he will eat any thing, when, before his stomach would turn at the ordinary provided for him. An alehouse is a rascally place; a sutling-house a paradise; and I often smile at the gentle expressions of war and sieges, where playing the cannon, silencing of batteries, making diversions

on

on the left or right (as it shall happen) are fine salves for the pain and torment they all feel in executing their duty. While I was meditating on what arose from the circumstance of the serjeant, reducing a grenadier to a private man (which no doubt was a disgrace at his sutling-house, as great as a general officer in France being sent to the *Bastile*) I overheard a colloquy, not so plain as I could have wished, from the noise the fellow made in driving in nails over my head; but yet I heard it. Mr. Bates, you know my heart, says a ragged young lady, I have a soul, and scorn to do pitiful things;—when the paltry ring was left between three of us, share and share alike, they pretended to say I then owed my grandmother, for money borrowed at several times, four shillings. Well! what did I do? Why, tho' my lawyer (and his advice cost

me half a crown, for I love to go to the eminent ones, and hate to do a shabby thing, as I said before) told me over and over again that I should get a *Ward*; if so be, and in case as how I went to law for my right and privileges, yet I generously gave the right I had to my *thirds*, and left it between them to settle it among themselves; and as to what you tell me about *Giles*, 'tis all a lye; for if the cart and horses was his own that he now drives (whereof they are not) I'd sooner marry Ebenezer, tho' I work'd to give him the wedding-shirt to his dear back. No! you know I have a soul!—Moving on towards Leicester-fields, and my operator doubling the strokes of his hammer, the rest vanish'd into air.

C H A P. IX.

THE play bills (as I said before) being pasted up pretty near where I was planted, I had perpetual amusement. An old woman this morning, with great exactness put on her spectacles, and looking over the characters of some tragedy, when she came to the part of the Ghost to be done by Mr. *Berry*, said, then He will be damn'd eternally, as he deserves, a wicked profane sinner:---Why, what an abominable world we live in! they'll all be damn'd that are in that paper, but particularly himself. When so many sermons have been wrote against profaneness, and folly, and luxury, and immorality, 'tis very amazing to me that they still will follow it. I should not
be

be surprized, if the devil was to fly away with the roof of the house, and particularly Covent-Garden, when they are shewing the devils and hell-fire, as cousin Edward has told me; and as I live, here is a dance by a devil; Madam Cap-devil too,---so there are she-devils then; I believe they will find old Satan alone enough to manage them, or I am mistaken greatly, and have heard homilies and prayers to no purpose. Away she pac'd, or rather hobbled. A pert barber and his brother shaver next read them over; and when he saw the part of the *King* to be perform'd by Mr. ———, he said, I know him well! and a great man he is; for you generally see he does the king, while your famous Garrick seldom does any thing better than a tobacco-man or a gamester, or some such low thing.

Lord!

Lord! it is not the number of lines they speak (you understand me) that makes the part, but the cloaths and the attendants. Why now you shall see that Garrick, whom his particular friends puff to mightily, coming in, as I say, like a beggar, and the moment this man appears, all the drums beat, and the trumpets sound, and the scene all drawn back, and such numbers of fine attendants on him, so that the whole house applaud before they see his face, which is a compliment due to majesty, and then he appears as fine as a lord, and is a king indeed: — then sneaks in your Garrick again, without even a lac'd hat, or a sword on;—no, no, talk of your Garrick's, and your Quin's, *Winston* for my money. Well! let's read a little further; ——— a sailor, with a song in character, by Mr. Beard:

Beard :—Lord ! what a mean life ! to sing in a common sailor's habit, that you might buy for ten shillings at any sloop-shop in Wapping. But see ——, at Covent-Garden, when he does a God, which is more than a king ;—there's for you : this convinces me that Mr. Beard is nobody, when you come to the matter of that. King Pluto is my fav'rite all over ; his feathers on his head, and his very expensive coat, convinces me he is by far the greatest man of the two ; then he is always attended too by many well-drest men (tho' not so fine as himself) who all dance in red stockings, which shews great respect and rank, as they appear like so many footmen, 'till those rascals had the impudence to wear white ones, in imitation of us—'tis an impudent age ! Well ! I must go and shave at the work-house, and then

I'll meet you, and make a party to hear old king Pluto sing. Done, says his friend, and so they went about their business, such as it was.

CHAP.

C H A P. X.

MY wounds and bruises, by frequent attendances on courts, play-houses, night-work, and so on, being now completely set to rights by my ingenious operator here, I am in daily expectation of being called away from a place I have found more delight in than any where hitherto; but I still got a day's reprieve, Paddy and his friend being yet in the country; and indeed some of the work not being quite dry and finish'd, I had hopes of a longer respite. An oratorio-bill being stuck up this morning for the first time, a methodist past by, and turning up his eyes, said, Well! if judgment is very long withheld from this country, I shall be surprized. Here's Israel in Ægypt to be perform'd at a play-house;

D 2

house; here are all the curses which were denounced, and were executed upon a sinful people, laugh'd at, tho' the same hand may continue them on us:—he went on thus for half an hour, and concluded by tearing down the paper, and telling every body, as he went along, that the world was mad, tho' I myself heard him, in a whisper, say, He was there a few days ago to see another by a name I could not remember since. At his departure a pair of French refugees stopp'd close to me, and began to let me know that it was impossible to grow rich in these days: they knew the time when coffee was only a penny a dish at coffee-houses, but now raised to double the sum. They added too, that the canaille were fallen into the gout of the noblesse, for in former days they could buy at poulterers shops stale game, and at fishmongers, fish of about
ten

ten days old, and nobody to bid against them; but now common carmen must eat a brace of *teal*, *widgeon*, *woodcock*, *snipe*, or *partridge*, and say it has a fine relish:---we had this to ourselves formerly. One of them had a bulldog with him, and being ask'd what he was going to do, said, That he sent to his friend, the butcher (with whom he had dealt many years) for his dog to go a shooting with, or, as they say, *a la chasse*. They now talk'd much of politics, change of kings and kingdoms, universal monarchy, the arms of France, the climate, the wine, the people, the navy, the fortified towns, the palaces, the gardens; then damning England with a very heavy curse, they both took leave, one *a la chasse*, and the other to receive a quarter's pension granted to his father by king William,

and still standing in his name, though dead ten years ago ;---for French refugees never die, if they have pensions or places.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

A Reprieve is come for one day more, partly owing to Paddy's not having enough to get a receipt in full; and the tradesman knowing the climate he was born in, and therefore unwilling to trust him: a bill was pasted up for an assembly; this occasion'd many spectators, and all of as different opinions, as they were of different features and complexions. One swore it was an academy for whoring and gaming; a second rubb'd his hands for joy, and blest himself that he should meet Molly there; a third sparkled his eyes to think he had a chance of winning incog. a few hundreds or so, and if a loser, of making off incog. too;—Thus they all went on; another swore it was a good tavern at the worst, and

56 The S E D A N.

that as a dress cost him nothing (having a friendship with a Harlequin of his own size) he could eat and drink his pennyworth out, as he had often done. Well! says a lady, now I shall have an opportunity of shewing them what true French dancing is, which one can't but in a proper dress, unfit for a common room; but a good old man shook his head, and said, Oh! Great Britain, you will soon be little indeed! Their conversation was remov'd by beaus and belles coming in to buy wedding-sedans: Lord! my dear, says one, I shall never be happy with a velvet lining, unless 'tis figured---do give me my way in this trifle, my lord, and I'll give you your's in any thing. Another cries, My sedan must be the exact shape, pattern, and size of my lord ———, or I shall never be able to ride in it with pleasure. A whisper being given to
one

one of these fine gentlemen that a person wanted him, he went, and to his unspeakable surprize (for, indeed, he could not speak a word) found him to be a bailiff, with a writ for a cool thousand pounds. The match was so near concluded, that had the chair been finished, it might all have been over; but the lady (on whose side the fortune entirely was) said, she never would consummate, 'till she could set out all at once with complete equipages; for that all the misery lady ——— felt in matrimony, was owing to her beginning in a plain way. There is nothing done without an early impresson on the public the first day, which nothing but new liveries and new equipages can bring about:—whether I am happy or not, says she, they shall think me so; and nobody ever was happy, that had not splendor like the sun. The

lady seem'd to be more griev'd at her unfinish'd chair, than the loss of her intended husband. Whether the match continued or broke off I can't say; but I imagine Miss lov'd splendor too well, to admire poverty and distress in her lover and intended help-mate.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

AT length, by the arrival of Paddy and his partner with new poles, I got soon from what my friends thought confinement, and entered again into a public and hurrying life. I could almost have wished never to have been removed, I liked my situation so well.—Well! 'twas my fate, and poor Sedan must submit. Habit is a great matter; for, having been first on *terra firma* for a week past, when the man raised me from the ground, I tottered and tumbled; and indeed a week's disuse had made some little alteration in them too. However, we set off; and in Leicester-Fields took up a well-dressed gentleman, who, when he was seated, re-

ceived from the hands of his servant a box like a pumpkin, only that a long handle rose from one of the ends of it. I soon found his business, by which he could afford to dress so well and pay chair hire, was teaching ladies to play on an instrument which he owned he was ashamed of, but that it was all one to him now, as he got so considerably by it. He often called it a *pandoli*; and while I most was wishing to hear it, he pulled it out, and tuned it ready for his first scholar. His prices were so high that he was expected always to come in a chair, and even to keep it waiting, which I find he generally did: this, says he, is a great drawback in my revenue, for otherwise, I would only take a † Scotch coach, and sink the whole upon them.—Well, we arrived at our first stage, and he entered,

† Shoe Cleaner.

Sedan

Sedan and all, as bold as a general officer, and, perhaps as he thought, as necessary a man. The Sedan being placed in the hall, a lady came out of the ground-parlour, Well, my dear, dear signor——, I have been wishing to see you ! I immediately took the lady to be the mother of some children, whose education and accomplishment she was willing to forward ; but, to my great surprize, the door continuing open, I saw this pretty miss, whose weight at least was eighteen stone, and her age near fifty, beginning the A. B. C. of this very important instrument. When she stuck it against her breast, she affected to look languishing, as being the posture, the signor said, most proper for the occasion ; and he always had with him a print of such a one by way of model, to form his scholars by—a kind of St. Cecilia. He
had

had been two months, at four guineas every eight lessons, to teach her this very small part of the accomplishment, and said she came on very well; for he believed in three months more, she would hold it as gracefully as St. Cecilia herself. After twanging the strings about a few minutes, and playing a few airs himself, in order to win her heart, she being an heiress, he pulled out his watch, talked of right honourable scholars, and said he feared he should be too late.—Adieu, my dear signor, says she, and the oftener you play to me with your little affair there, the happier I shall be.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIII.

I Well remember the rascally signor we carried yesterday, got out at the end of the street, the moment he thought himself out of sight, complained that the seat was hard, and paid us very shabbily ; but before he went out, declared that he must go and shut himself up all the rest of the day, as he had not one more scholar, but must make the world believe he had, which, says he, is easily done by a foreigner ; for the English are in general the most credulous and believing fools I ever knew. If I can keep this lady back enough by stratagems of a graceful figure, and schemes that will touch her vanity, I hope to get her in the mind ; more especially if the instrument continues in fashion, which I don't fear, because
it

it is a very silly one, and something foreign, new and out of the way. To-day we were differently attacked; for the very first person was a shoemaker going to be married. He said bridegrooms were free to wear any thing; and a tallow-chandler of his acquaintance had dressed much finer on his marriage. The cloaths hung on him as on a stand to be dusted; for his arms stuck out so horizontally, that I feared my little windows would have suffered from his elbows. He might think himself fine, and I imagine he did; tho' I have seen him before in his green apron, with a greater appearance of the gentleman: but every one as they like. After his discharge, a gentleman of great family and true fortune stopped us, and with a smile said, I have walked too much to-day, and now must be carried, else I think
it

it not a carriage for a foldier. He was scarce feated but he began, What a new age we live in ! I remember the time, when an officer would have been as much afhamed to have been feen in fuch a fituation, as now he is proud of it. I think it unmanly, but I am fuperannuated, as they call me ; and yet now I never fleep on a feather-bed, never button my waiftcoat, never wear fpectacles, and never warm a fhirt. Thefe are trifles perhaps ; but I can fummon up as much or more courage than ever, and have a foul yet fo full of defire for glory, that I could be a volunteer to-morrow in any dangerous expedition. Why they don't employ me I know ; my brother voted againft their paltry meafures : what has an officer to do with that ? By this means, boys and blockheads are arrived at commands ; and veterans who remembered

bered their being christened (though not all, for some I believe are, but I won't say what) are to be slighted. Well, half pay and respect, is better than full pay and be deemed as they, too many of them are, coxcombs and bullies. An unlucky arrival to me, at least, cut off all future pleasure; and I had promised myself very much from so modest and fine gentleman.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIV.

SINCE my reparation, I have some how or other, had a very particular dejection of spirits. Whether I am almost tired of a foolish and ridiculous world, I can't say, or that there seems nothing new under the sun, I can't tell ; but so it is, that I can scarce find characters to laugh at, or laugh with ; I rather fear I shall take the opposite philosophy and weep, or, like the great Alexander, weep because I have no further business to do, as he had no more worlds to conquer. I knew within myself what hypocrites men are. I have carried methodists to bagnios, whores to early prayers, widows to surgeons back-doors, citizens to gaming-tables, grave husbands
to

to courtezans lodgings, and serious wives to officers barracks; but what is this all? I seem some how, by experience or intuition, to know every man's real business before he enters, and his real heart before he opens his mouth; and yet, in hopes of a new character, I venture out again: and indeed our first to-day was original, no less a man than a Jew going to a minister's closet, to transact the affair of a million or two. He was scarce seated but he began, The nation must be ruined, and I hope it will; this seems to be the last stake they can have, and as we are naturalized, perhaps the kingdom may be sold, and we may bid for it: don't tell me of prophecies against us by a person we never shall believe; kingdoms are troublesome affairs, and therefore we never concern ourselves
about

about them. While we govern the credit and cash of every country, let the diadem be worn by fools and madmen! If money governs all, which I know it does, then we are the kings of the whole earth. I think to-day I am the superior; a beggarly minister crying for credit, is rather less than myself who gives it him. What a glorious country this would be, if not loaded with debts, and its consequence, taxes? Yet these are your christians! very merciful, truly. Step into Westminster-Hall, are there any such persecutions in the world as among the christians there? Go to court, where such undermining, falshood, treachery, collusion, fraud, deceit, injustice, oppression, calumny, malice, and what not? and yet these are christians! and have their prayers twice a day in their very homes. Well! I begin to think

I shall be a christian too; for they may do what they will, but we must be branded with hard-heartedness, even to a proverb. I'll practise my first maxim of christianity this very morning; for I'll make this booby-minister pay ten pound per cent. more than any other, and use him as he deserves besides: thank heaven I have lived to see one Jew respected, at least outwardly; and, as for any thing else, they may practise it on one another, like Christians in general,

C H A P. XV.

WELL! reader, you'll be puzzled to guess our first business to day. An epicure insisted on a baker bringing him a pasty, for fear it should be cold, swaddled up in blankets to his house. I thought it beneath the dignity of a sedan, but Paddy said the times were hard, and that money made the mare to go, and the like, not forgetting too the expence of the last reparation; and so the baker made his appearance. The fellow smiled at the folly of mankind (even though he was then getting by them) and, as far as he could reason, reckoned very well. He said, as the distance was not great, he was sure the pasty would not have suffered in the journey, as it was so well cloathed; and then reflected that the
expence

expenſe of his chair-hire would have made ſome poor woman happy. He forgot what end of the town he was in; for we were in the ſound of St. James's clock, where they had rather give a guinea to a bagnio waiter, than the odd ſhilling to an afflicted widow. Theſe and other like circumſtances, made me every day almoſt wiſh my being were at an end, or that I was as ſtupid and unthinking as the men who carried me; they felt nothing but the bodily weight of their fare, I felt for their minds. We ſoon diſcharged our double burthen, for the paſty, covering and all was no ſmall addition; and the few minutes we ſtaid at the door, we heard—Oh! my lord, he's arrived; I have eat a London paſty hot at Richmond before now; there, Charles—the baker's an honeſt fellow, give him

a crown at least. Sir Charles, I am determin'd one of these days, to say I have eat an English pasty or pie hot at Calais; I mean from London: I can do it for about a hundred pound. I'll have relays of post-chariots, with tin dish covers kept hot on purpose, and I warrant you I'll do it. I'll bett a thousand pounds he does, says lord William—Done; and so a bett, I believe, was made. The baker having received part of his crown, and not daring to say the footman had cheated him of four shillings (as he hoped future custom from the house) they one and all insist'd he should go home again with the windows down, which he was forced to submit to; so that his crown expired at his own door, whereas he had hopes by walking to have saved one shilling, from the mad generosity of the master he expected.

still to work for. It was by accident I heard, that some days afterwards (his honour being pretty near one of our stands) that this gentleman was sent to the Marshalsea for a small debt of some hundreds; and had not interest or influence over the plate-lickers, who had lived with him so long, to borrow enough to pay the officer for civility. This was all I could hear, but believe it true, as I soon after saw his windows shut and a carpet at the door, with the additional ornament of a beadle with a silver-headed pole, betokening the house had met with some disaster of death or bankruptcy.—I was only sorry the poor baker had not his crown, and advise all tradesmen, by his loss, to be careful of footmen's deductions.

C H A P. XVI.

O UR business every day seems, and indeed is, as great as ever; but variety being my pursuit, I now find very little. I almost am arrived at that exquisite pitch of discernment, that I think I know every one's heart before they begin to speak. By this means I lose much pleasure, and am in the situation of a person too conversant with theatres, who is robbed of more than half his delight, by being beforehand with every actor in the speech he is going to make. I have never been thoroughly happy since my removal from Coventry-street, and was sorry the workmen, contrary to most others, furnished me within the time appointed. Well! what are we to have to-day? Many pass mine and my

E 2 reader's

reader's notice without any remark on them, being either very insipid, or duplicates of characters gone before. To dwell on such would be like circulating-library authors, who can't describe one person going to visit another but the particulars of calling a chair, knocking at the door, who came to open that door, how many taps he gave with the knocker, what colour the livery was on the footmen, and so on, must all be mentioned; no, reader! these are circumstances fit only for love novels, and their admirers love-sick children, and below the dignity of satire. During this soliloquy of mine, we were summoned by a pretty young lady, who bid us carry her to a certain auction-room in--As she seated herself she began, Don't tell me of your malls in the Park and Temple gardens for a girl to find a friend in, an auction-room, or

a rehearsal of a play, if you can gain admittance, and even the Exchange, has its favourable minutes. To mingle with the herd, you always will be ranked among the herd; the art is to stand by one's self, and come as near modesty and modest folks as possible. Thus when I am sitting on the same bench with lady——, whose character was never unsullied, don't I gather strength in the men's eyes from that instant? And the men, who love dearly a sly intrigue, never grudge paying double; especially if you can make them believe that matrimony is your fatal lot, to represent that you are wedded to the man you hate, that he is cruel, and goes to other arms than your own, is a great step to conquest; and really this is soon done. The fools are ever credulous when beauty pleads, and that even my sex allow me to have.

Before I am seated a minute, I shall have a card, mentioning terms of honour and secrecy, and appointing some chappel or other to meet, for fear of offending or shocking my modesty, by fixing on a place more commonly used of the two. Your Green Park, Bird-Cage Walk, Westminster-Abbey, and the Bridge, walking to and fro, are paltry schemes, and only level to the minds of your vulgar ones. Stay, I see we are near arrived; I'll pinch my cheeks a little to give them a colour, and my eyes, thank heaven, never were brighter, considering how much mercury I have taken within this month. I was sorry our lady was so soon arrived, though I fear her discourse, by what had already passed, would have had no further variety in it.

C H A P. XVII.

THough we had no less than eleven guests after the fair lady yesterday, not one of them had the least variety in his character, so as to make him worthy the reader's kind attention. A trim young clergyman engaged us this morning, to attend the duke of——for his scarf as a domestic chaplain. He seemed mightily pleased to think how he should tower over your country vicars with *unfilken shoulders*; and at the same time wished for to-morrow's news-paper, to see a paragraph which he wrote out for the occasion—*domestic chaplain to the most noble and puissant prince——*; I'll work them, says he, in the country: but besides, now I can tick a little

with my robe-maker and taylor, for I find I am protected; and without the least trouble too I shall slip my collar, if it so happens, because I am absolutely in his service. I was not sorry when this guest departed; for I could not bear to hear a man abuse a privilege, originally granted, that the duties of religion in a nobleman's house should never be neglected in a great family: it would have been hard then, when a Clergyman was going to pray, and the whole family ready to hear him, to have him prevented by a malicious and revengeful tradesman; but now I believe no duties would be prevented or interrupted. Arrest chaplains as often as you would, *omnium rerum vicifitudo*, says the almanack—Three or four more strange guests passed thro' us without one remark to be made on them;

them ; but at last a young gentleman, in a military habit, employed us to carry him to a famous portrait-painter: as we went along he said—Well, I make the poor fool believe I am an officer, and 'tis easily contrived, you see, by my taylor's kind assistance. My regiment is supposed to be abroad, and that I have only a month's leave of absence more granted to gain her affections in—I have forged two or three letters from my supposed colonel, wherein I make him say, “ Indeed Sir, as much as his majesty's service requires you, I will still stave it off to make you happy in your intended marriage; whoever the lady is, I unknowing, and unknown, congratulate her on finding, in these degenerate days, so brave, so worthy, and so accomplished a gentleman, and so on.” This picture, I think, does

the business ; I am drawn in armour by her own desire.—Well, women make their fortunes often by stratagem, and why not men ? Faith I'll never repent of past troubles, if I gain her : when I have money, I'll be an officer, and of the first rank too ; I mean in the guards. I fear my painter will teaze me for half price, as the drapery is begun, that being a very wicked custom of late among them : but passing for a general officer, I think I can hum him with the words, Upon my honour, till I am married, and then I'll pay myself my wife's fine present out of her own money.

C H A P.

C H A P. XVIII.

I Could wish, says Mr. Sedan, I did not know the hearts of men so well: I was really happier, when I only watched their faces, without thinking them in general, *masks all*, and that life is one continued, and continual masquerade. When I saw apothecaries entering the houses of patients, I very foolishly thought, they would even give up their profits to save the poor creature's life; and that lawyers would remit their fees, to help or save from ruin a distressed widow with eight children: but I find I grew wiser, and as honest Prior says, (and too truly, though I did not believe his words once.)

“ In ignorance our comfort lies,

“ The only wretched are the wise !”

(A school-boy who sees a play-house ocean, goes home very happy, that he was not in the storm : let him once touch the canvas billows, lying by in a dark room, and the man of war hanging upon a peg, like a cast-off great coat, and his pleasure will vanish, so as never to return again : but who have we here ? A physician, perhaps, by his sword, suit of black, and ty'd wig : —He was scarce seated but he began—My name is now established, and I think I may very safely add another half guinea to *tabby all over*. It is only talking a little of the goodness of the goods, and I'll hum them I warrant you. What a world we live in ? How easily sugar'd over ! I solemnly declare I know no more of the work
that

that goes from me, than a man in the Indies—but my foreman is very clever, and when they are finished I carry them home; and 'tis easy to talk about the filk, the whalebone, the twist, the losses of tradesmen, and the old cant of the great fraternity: but the surest and best part of all is the flattery of their shapes:—this never fails of ready money in hand, and a recommendation for more business. To this I always have at hand the proper answer, that I have more than I can do; that I am drawing out of trade as fast as possible, and then I never want for being prest with,—Well, Mr. Whalebone, only work for us and my Cousin Jenny, and our friends in Soho, and I'll esteem it a favour as long as I live.—At this very time I am starving, and have only two men at work; yet manage it so well, that was any one

one impertinent enough to follow me, or trace me with telling a lie; I would swear point blank that I discharged above thirty last week for caballing and being idle. If this is disproved, why then there is nothing left but swearing I do all my business out of doors, for the sake of peace, quietness, and silence. Believe me, I was not sorry when I got rid of so impudent, ostentatious, and lying a rascal.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIX.

OUT of nine fares we had this day, till the close of the evening, not one carried about him the least air of a character ;—till at last a young fellow, who had just subscribed his five guineas to a public hospital, and in consequence made a governor, was all the way pleasing himself with his title, which being the very first he ever obtained, was a very charming thing to him.—He already was signing his name to letters in fancy, and happy in the thought that discharg'd patients would come to thank him for the cure they had found. How different was our next visiter ? Who was ever disposing of charities, as from hands unknown, saying, He was employed as a steward on the occasion.

We

We carried the latter to many of the prisons ; and happier the assisted persons could not be than himself, whenever he returned to us, as we were always kept waiting. This gentleman, I found, allowed himself five hundred pounds a year for charities, tho' his fortune did not double that sum ; and in the disposition never was suspected as the donor. He would sometimes, still better to conceal it, talk in this manner, " 'Tis a troublesome office I have ; but I must obey my orders : I almost blame the people who send me on this errand, for throwing their money about so carelessly : but 'tis their whim. I wish I had the disposing of it, I believe I should have found better and more worthy objects. I hope it will be the last :—some religious scruple, or death-bed repentance, I do imagine, has created this ; for I
am

am sure nothing else could have stood your friend." He added often, that it gave him a very secret pleasure to hear other people claiming the name and merit of his actions, which, says he, I very often find. I let them go on, having all my pleasure at an end by doing the action and not hearing of it again. While he was thus talking, he bid us stop while he went out, and, on his speedy return, he brought a piece of paper in his hand, which he read over as he seated himself. This was no other than a coal-merchant's receipt in full for near forty chaldron of coals, which he had ordered away unknown to private families, during a very severe winter. I was sorry to lose so worthy a guest so soon; but he got out to go to morning-prayers at the New-church in the Strand, and discharged us with a smile I never beheld

held on any man before in my life. I do believe we might have had more business to-day, but we did not chuse to stain our seat with a person less worthy, to-day at least.

C H A P. XX.

A Young barrister (the first day of his being called) was our first business to-day. He had a bag in his hand, which I soon found was filled with papers for appearance only; and I could smile to think how soon he carv'd out for himself the first and most profitable post in the law. As he went along he was repeating lines out of Shakespear and Milton, and descanting on their beauties; and, when any very studious and venerable serjeant past him, he would say, Phoo! the leaden-headed fellow knows nothing

thing but law : I warrant you, he had rather read a new act of parliament, than see a new play.—Well ! the modern scheme is certainly best, mixing pleasure with business, and not thinking of the latter till it comes before you. It comes to the very same point, for as the judges have read as little as ourselves, there is no fear of being caught tripping in any point of law, for they are as much alter'd as we are. What a stupid age the last must have been ! reading and stupifying themselves, till at length they died in the harness. After I have tramp'd the hall, and shewn myself a little I'll walk in the park ; then make a party for the play, and then—but he left us to guess the last engagement by our arrival in Palace-yard We had scarce put down the head of the chair, but we were engaged to carry a surly-looking
ing

ing man, who very soon let us guess the errand he went on, by immediately beginning to curse lawyers, from the chancellor to the lowest clerk in an inn of court. He had lost a cause, and therefore, (tho', as I learnt, frequently solicited to accommodate and make it up with his antagonist) he swore there was no justice, honour, integrity, truth, or conscience, in the kingdom. The judges were brib'd—the jury was swayed—the counsel took fees on the other side, and, in short, the nation was undone. I burn'd to ask him several questions ; for the remainder of the time was spent in dull surly silence, and obstinate captiousness. Every step we took now was a mile ; and I often thought that my life, like that of mankind in general, is strangely chequer'd with joy and trouble.—Indeed ! I some how or other grow tired of life
of

of late, and wish sometimes a good lottery ticket would fall into my bearer's laps, that they would grow idle, and think of business no more : but I must submit ; and yet something whispers me that I shall soon, or never, be released from all my cares and troubles. It may be imagination ! but my mind strangely misgives me that it will be so.—The sooner the better for poor Sedan,

C H A P. XXI.

THE sun does not seem to rise so chearfully as it us'd to do. We are perpetually employed, and yet, some how or other, my pleasure seems daily to abate : I almost hate to have any one enter the sedan ; and formerly I was all spirits at their approach. I suppose 'tis so with others. How fond a young physician or lawyer is of their first patients and clients !—afterwards, I believe, they wish to be any thing but what they are. I have sometimes wished (as I am excluded from any kind of country amusements by my shape and make) that I was a horse, or even the saddle, to know the humours of New-market, and the turf in general ; as also those (if there are any) of country squires at fox hunting.

My province is London, and, indeed, till lately, a very pleasant one. While I was ruminating in this manner, a gentleman called to us, whom Paddy at once knew to be his countryman, (tho' I could not) and bid us go to several places ; but among the first to the Bedford coffee-house, to leave an open card, which he had ready wrote in his hand, and, when fairly seated, he said, Faith ! my stile daily improves ; I'll read it again. Stay, stay—Yes, 'tis the right one. Major Fitzgerald's compliments to Esquire Montgomery, begs he will let no body know, not even his own dearest friend, that his name is not Fitzgerald, and that he is not in the army, nor ever was ; that he lodges no where at present ; and to-day dines at three with lord Mayo ; at four with lord Kildare ; at five with lord Shannon—after which he shall be at home
all

all the evening. After more than once reading and admiring the stile, he left it, saying, as it was for an intimate friend, there was no occasion to steal it at all. From thence went to a famous optician's to buy a pair of spectacles; and after trying on near seventy to no purpose, the master of the shop said (for he wanted to be gone to dinner, or get rid of this very troublesome customer that might be) Sir, here's a book well printed in English, let me see your distance of sight when you read, and your manner of reading, and I warrant you I'll prepare proper glasses for you. By my faith, says he, I can't read, and always thought, by your advertisement, which was read to me the other day, that you sold glasses to make people read. Do you think, if I could read, that I would be at this strange expence? My read-

er,

der, that I suppose, will believe me, when I tell him that I was not sorry to be discharged from such a visitor, and even to take a bad shilling among others, rather than wrangle, or hear him speak again.

C H A P. XXII.

I Have often before had such guests as yesterday's was, but was cautious of ever mentioning it, as my bearers, were pretty national and might have punished me by leaving me out all night in a cold entry, instead of taking me under proper cover; therefore I was silent. Our first employ to-day was a toy-shop woman, who spoke but very moderate English, and was going to carry with her some trinket or other to a noble lord. As she seated

herself, she began to tell what I at first imagined was a parcel of lies ; namely, that one of her brothers was an Irish bishop, and another had a regiment : I really trembled to think how fast she was going on, when she very soon explained herself, saying, Why, my bills were very large, and though it was nothing to me but honour, it was profit to themselves, and so they are welcome : if I had not obtained this I should never have had any thing ; so 'tis very well, very well. My low spirits now daily increased, when I found by what strange and unaccountable channels, honours and incomes were gained ; and I could but recollect, at this instant, how many persons were subalterns in church and the army, who might perhaps have more learning than one, or more bravery than the other of those very fortunate brothers. Tired with

with such reflexions day after day, I have even been wicked enough to wish sometimes that I was annihilated—and almost was sorry the other day, not to be burnt in a fire which happened at a sedan-maker's, where many of my family perished. When I daily find how different the faces and hearts of the whole world almost are that pass through my hands, I do declare I begin to lose all patience. But religious hypocrites to me are the most insufferable of all; and of them within this month, though I have not mentioned it, I have carried scores, from prelates to the Upper-House, to methodists who preach in the open air. The world seems to have lost all shame! Nor can I account for it, but from the sovereign affection to pleasure, which annihilates all serious thoughts ever afterwards. Be it as it will—I could

100 The S E D A N.

almost wish some worthy charitable infirm lady would buy me outright for her country use, to carry her up and down her fields, meadows, gardens, and plantations—; when I might see nature and not so much art, as this vile and infamous metropolis daily practises one upon the other: I fear I should be too happy! to call on poor tenants, and see them blest by her bountiful hand; to carry her to her Menagerie of birds and animals, and see them nourished by her chearful goodness: sure this would be a life of angels! but I fear 'tis never to be my lot. To carry her to stand sponsor to a poor family's son, and offer herself to clothe and educate him; or to bear her into her very pew in the church, and hear her unfeignedly thank heaven for the power given her to relieve the distressed, and that she wishes for no
more

more unless still to extend her bounty further ; or to bear her among her plantations, and hear her talk of the goodness and wisdom in the vegetable world, of providence and the—But 'tis a dream I must not please myself with the hopes of—therefore must content myself still in bearing the continual maskers of this metropolis, to play their several parts of oppression, injustice, cruelty, fraud, persecution, over-bearing, pride, ostentation, revenge, hatred, malice, and all the train of strange uncharitableness against the innocent, the deserving, the weak, the patient, the fatherless, the helpless, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger.

C H A P. XXIII.

The force of Impudence.

AN EPISODE.

WAiting in the Painted-chamber to-day, variety of characters passed, and not unobserved: but the dread of a black rod puts a padlock for the present; tho' over a bottle, perhaps I might entertain my curious friend with things, which, as Hamlet says, *Are not in your philosophy.* But while I was most ruminating on what passed, a well-dressed gentleman tript by, and several footmen being at the table playing at chess, whist, laying betts, &c. &c. &c. &c. one of them said how damned stiff his honour is of late

late—If he is above speaking in public to his old fellow-labourers, sure he might just give a wink as he passed. Gentlemen all ! my blood is up, and I will tell you all (I mean those who are young) how to make your fortunes as his honour did : I am old and past it ; but I wish our honourable fraternity well, and so I'll begin.

That very fellow, who passed you all unknown as he thought by every body, though not unknown to me, for I believe he saw me, tho' he would not take notice of me, was once like one of us. A lucky widow has done all this—as the poet says

— He took his stand
Upon a widow's jointure land.

But to the point. He is now of the other house, a m——r of p——t, and all that ; and the affair is so entirely for-

got, that unless from one furly or justly-irritated friend, he has never heard a rude or uncivil thing: this person indeed, when his honour was stepping into his chariot, said, between jest and earnest, that he was amazed he never made a mistake and *got behind*. The wit was never forgiven; for as he had no education, of course he is, if of any sect of philosophers, a Heathen one.

We were educated at the same charity school. I was ever his senior, and have done many an exercise for the ungrateful dog. As we grew up we were so near of a size, that a gentleman, whose whim was (since become a fashion) to drive four horses with two postillions, came to the school, and by consent of parents, master, and trustees, we were engaged to him. It was six months, after daily practice between

Bath

Bath and London, (so contrived by our new owner) before we were allowed to conduct him, his lady, or children. But certificates of our skill being properly attested, we at length put on our parti-coloured jackets, being the most whimsical I have ever seen before or since: but he was a man of fortune, enjoyed being particular, and so we began our new life, not without many fashes flung up whenever we drove through the streets of London, and much laughing of course.

We seemed tolerably happy, at least I was: but James (that was the scoundrel's name then, for perhaps he may since have changed it when he bought a coat of arms) being once or twice unluckily commended by his master in preference to me, he grew insolent of course, wanted more wages, further respect out of the stable—; and

so our master being of a warm temper, he whipt him pretty well with his own post whip, and turned him going, for the future only driving a pair and one postilion, which I faithfully did for years afterwards.

However, parted as we were in livery we were neighbours ; and he went often the same road with myself in the same capacity as before : we often visited ; so that from his own mouth, if he related true, I can give the rest of his history as well as if I still lived with him. His next master took such a fancy to him, that he gave him some knowledge of music ; and the scoundrel, who was dull enough at school, now, by a spirit of ambition, began to read a little French, sing a cantata (for a plain English ballad was become a dismal thing at once) and, at last, the best airs of an *opera* were the consequence

quence of his frequent attendance in the gallery there, and hearing the young ladies at home practise them. By these accomplishments, he arrived at the name of smart Jemmy and clever fellow among his comrades and brethren of the shoulder-knot. I continued in my plain *John Trot* way, drudging for trifles, and content with additional shillings, by dragging my master's guests to the door, and hiding their hats and gloves, according to the custom of all honest servants. But James appeared every day out of livery hours in the best apparel, insomuch that, as he grew to manhood, many impertinent and jealous brethren said, that there must be a fly way of doing all this, and wished for his sake and his *neck's* that it was a fair one.

However, it soon came to light, that Jemmy had read books of novels and

intrigue, and already began to thrive *that* way. He often changed places as he could better himself: and indeed his accomplishments, out of livery, such as playing on the fiddle well, singing, dancing, &c. &c. &c. gave him advanced wages and presents, which he too often boasted of, as it drew envy, and of course practices were formed against him.

But he went through it, and it appeared more easy afterwards why he should; for he drew his first air in Ireland, and had often been dipped in the *Shannon*, on a surmise of his being ricketty. As trifling as this last circumstance may appear, it is known to be of great service to many, and is a remedy not to be laughed at or despised.

He now read plays and poetry; and though he had not yet arrived at that knack of stringing rhimes (perhaps as

uncouth ones as Mary Harriss's petition in dean Swift's works) yet he could alter a line now and then, by way of *feeling his way* in that art; thus, not so much for the beauties of the turn, as the hint that it first gave us of his future ambition and thirst of greatness, I'll give you a specimen. He early shewed a great disposition to money; and in his own hand-writing, this distich of Mr. Pope's was thus altered.

Reason's whole pleasures, all the joys
of sense,

Lie in three words, health, peace,
and competence.

The last line, as it stands altered by him, is,

Lie in three single words, pounds,
shillings, pence.

But I see we are interrupted—meet
me to-night at the Chequer, and I'll
tell

tell you such things as shall amaze you. Do, let us be there; and, as the subject is not only pleasing, but may be of advantage, pray attend pnnctually.

C H A P. XXIV.

TH E excessive gloominess of the morning, joined to some thunder, an unusual ebbing and flood of the tide, with many other things I shall not tire my reader with, made me preface some impending fate on me in particular, or the kingdom in general. I went out with a very heavy heart, and had no sort of change in my several passengers. I carried (as I had often done) vain citizens to St. James's end of the town, and designing courtiers into the city; lawyers with empty bags (I mean as to business) to Westminster, and courtezans with fresh com-

The S E D A N. III

complexions to surgeon's back doors. I cried to myself, All is vanity! and there is nothing new under the sun! As evening came on (after the hardest and most profitable day the men had ever enjoyed) sure there was a fatality hung over me; for I endeavoured to make them get home in vain. Hopes of a good waiting-job tempted them to the Shakespear, where, about three in the morning, some bucks, who had above stairs been acting the drunken scene of Sir John Brute and his jolly comrades, came down sword in hand, and bravely driving the men from their stand, seized the sedan, and said they would sacrifice it for want of the constable's great wooden chair mentioned in the play, to appease the *manes* of poor injured Nancy Reynolds. Words were in vain! prayers less, when oaths run so high. A fire was soon kindled;
many

many people stood by, and (like the world) made believe they would assist, but never stirred a step; so I, alas! was placed on the funeral pile! the bloods, with swords brandishing in the air, defying and damning all Middlesex justices, with Fielding at their head: guards were sent for, but, like English armies in general, came too late, except to see themselves laughed at and insulted. Thus ended the life of a well-meaning subject! no part of me remaining but what honest Sparke found me at my first setting out, which I suppose and hope, fell to the lot of some poor cinder woman. And it is little comfort to me, who wished to be alive and active again, that the affair has been determined in Westminster-Hall, so much to the advantage of the men for blows and damages, that they quitted the trade immediately and retired

retired to their own country, where, in dirt, indolence, and just enough to live on, they bless St. Patrick and the day which made them gentlemen, at the expence of my happiness and my being.

C H A P. XXV.

TH E parties all accordingly met : but, as they seemed on a plan of forming themselves into a regular society, for the future, the better to raise themselves and confound their lords and masters, there was as little done with respect to the business in hand at this first meeting, as among a consultation of lawyers or physicians. The room being a very elegant one, and not engaged to any particular society, they all said they would have *the honour* then of *founding* the society. A kind
of

of form for a proper oath of allegiance and supremacy was, after many debates, which the reader had rather guess than hear related, fully agreed on. And, as not one in company could write a legible hand, they sent for the vestry clerk, who was a writing-master (and as usual without knowing one of them, taught geometry, trigonometry, dialling, navigation, and the Italian method of book-keeping) and it was from his curiosity or treachery that I gained a copy of the oath. As it is singular, perhaps the reader may find not only a pleasure in it, but gather some profitable and saving knowledge from it.

Oath of allegiance and supremacy

Publicly agreed on

To be faithfully (if it cannot solemnly)

Administred

To

To ev'ry member of this hon^{ble} society.

Founded

The 1st day of April 1757,

Agreeable to

Occult causes and the *fitness* of things.

Favete Linguis.

We whose names are underwritten being (tho' not quakers) mov'd by a *proper spirit*, do faithfully promise and agree to be firm to the cause we are so happily engaged in.

We firmly have proved and believe, that *service is no inheritance*, as our masters lay it down among themselves; and therefore we have an undoubted right to make it otherwise whenever we have an opportunity.

We sincerely promise, that nobody shall continue a member of this society, who, in the least tittle, varies from the rules we think proper to go by, and
which

which we shall confirm by future ties at our several meetings, affairs being now but in a state of nonage and infancy.

We promise, that if any member of our society quits a service from a motive of honour, in not being able to live with his master, that we will all in our several turns invite him to our master's table. While he so continues out of place, rather than do a mean thing—such as compounding vails with his mistress, giving a gentleman what he calls for at table, if he does not faithfully and punctually pay his ordinary; changing his good hat, sword and gloves, for much worse kept for that purpose, till he purchases them all back again at the usual price, &c. &c. &c. &c.—(as by reference to a folio book now preparing and called, *The Resolu-*

Resolutions of a most honourable Society,
will always more fully appear).

And we further most faithfully swear by the shoul-der-knot (which is to us as sacred as an officer's sword) that it is fair and lawful practice among us *select and elect* brethren, to take not only poundage of tradesmen in general, according to their own agreement, (particularly the taylors) of 25 per cent. for every hundred pounds our masters lay out with them, and so in proportion for a less sum; but also that, if we know our master's circumstances are bad, and that he is going to disappear, cross the sea, get an ambassador's protection, lodge in the verge of the court, or the like, that in such a case all obligations being at once cancelled, even tho' they bred us up from infancy, we have an undoubted and approved right to give notice to all tradesmen who are
his

his creditors, and put any officer in the way how to arrest him soonest and without danger.

But we agree, this is not to be done for a less premium than 35 per Cent. for all sums so owing, which the tradesmen may easily recover to themselves again, by putting it on to the bill; and we are to be always ready to swear on a trial in favour of the several creditors and tradesmen, that the articles were so agreed on, and always were esteemed very reasonable, because of the *goodness of the goods*.

We further agree and can prove, that all board-wages are lawful pocket money, and only to be looked on as such; for that we have a right of prescription not only to live at free quarter with our master's cheesemonger, butcher, poulterer, baker, wine merchant, brewer, &c. &c. &c. but also to have

at

at our clubs, or in the room commonly called the *servant's hall*, any thing they deal in when we chuse to junket and feast among ourselves.

We also assuredly think no *parson* is free and clear of vails, tho' it is commonly allowed to be so; that if they are poor they should stay at college; and that it is fair to change their *beaver* when they have their robes on, and lay a plain hat in the room of it, by which means they can't go home but in a coach; and if they have a shilling for that use, they may as well give it for another: upon which it is but fair to restore the beaver, kept only as a pledge or hostage on the occasion.

We are most clearly of opinion, that shoulder-knots may be made and ought to be made to take on and off as occasion shall serve; and that cloaths with worsted lace down the back and seams,
are

are only fit for drummers, and beneath the dignity of any member of this society ; and that a plain frock with laced waistcoats (silver or gold) are the proper dress to answer the several ends, for which we have formed this society.

We not only imagine, but can prove, that counterfeiting any man's hand for the sake of giving a character to any brother out of place, or signing any governor's hand to get any member of this honourable society into an hospital, for want of a better recommendation, is truly charitable and very praiseworthy.

We are assured, that we have an undoubted right to counterfeit not only our master's hand if a member of parliament, but also that of any brother servant's lord and master, provided we have been too free with our own ; and that whoever sells a frank (either nobleman's

bleman's or commoner) for less than three-pence (as the price may easily be recovered to the party by inclosing more letters than one) is undeserving a seat at this club.

That it is all fair, upright and honest, to debauch our master's daughters as soon as we can, for the honour of the family ; by this means we may chance to get them in marriage by consent, as a late act has entirely excluded us from any chance of bettering our fortunes in that way.

We also think it very fair practice, to spot and spoil cloaths belonging to our masters as soon as possible ; and to tarnish the lace or embroidery, by burning of brimstone or rubbing mercury on them (which few servants are without at one time or another) and this not only to get them ourselves, as in the list of cast-off cloaths, but also to

benefit the trade of taylors, lacemen, embroiderers, woollen drapers, &c. &c. &c. &c. on paying the proper and accustomed poundage as settled before, at the very moderate allowance of 25 per Cent.

We are never to have the least compassion for the misfortunes, losses, or illness of a master; as from a bankruptcy there are tolerable profits, by concealing things from our master, which he must privately return to us, or be blown; and from illness a good suit of mourning may happen, besides undertaker's poundage, which is 40 per Cent. agreed by themselves.

We firmly and faithfully agree, that our master's linen, by keeping an odd or spare shirt of the same make, shape and size, is all our own; and that his stockings, by always having a pair with holes in them, are lawful plunder, in case
he

he should be so imprudent as to enquire after his whole stock; for in such a case no mischief is too great to exercise on such a master.

We are convinced, as of a sacred truth, that all wigs last our masters too long; and therefore not only to get fresh *fees* from the peruké maker, but also the sooner to obtain them ourselves, that it is fair to singe the foretops with the pressing-iron, so that they can't well be worn afterwards: the maker in this case is to put a new foretop *gratis*, or else we have a right to remove him, by any lie we can think of, from the custom of that house.

We hereby also bind ourselves to maintain a regular correspondence with our master's affairs, by examining ev'ry servant who is sent from any family on particular business; as also to read all letters in his pockets that are already

unsealed and broke open by him, there being but very little occasion to run hazard in breaking a seal, because they generally come to our knowledge in a few days, by the general carelessness of all masters, more particularly young gentlemen.

We certainly have an unlimited right (tho' not so old a claim as the parsons) of a neat tenth of all liquors bottled off in the house, the vacancy to be filled up with some liquor most correspondent ; thus small beer replenishes the strong very well, and cyder mingles with the wine : as to spirits, we can only get our dues there by the measure, as a mixture of any cheap liquor of that kind would be found out.

We are convinced, that we have a right to sit at an opera till the very end of the last dance ; and that we are better judges in general than many who
fit

fit below us, and are therefore below our notice; and that we have a right to applaud or condemn, hiss or clap the whole performance, or any part of it, whenever we think proper.

We further agree, that when our master or mistress are very dangerously ill, or on a long journey, that then is the time to give them warning: by these means, wages may be suddenly raised up to a proper pitch; or we shall have the satisfaction to distress them at these particular seasons.

We most sincerely believe, that nobody keeps us but for his own use, *pride*, or necessity, and therefore we have an undoubted right to leave them whenever we hear of any place more profitable.

We also know by experience, that the provisions which are set by are the best to partake of; and that it is

our right and privilege to disobey in these particular cases, notwithstanding all orders from the parlour to the contrary.

We agree, that all poor people are rascals, and the scum of the earth ; that no petitions or letters, where we suspect such a thing, are to be delivered, as we have no reason to put our masters or mistresses out of humour about other people's affairs, when we want all their good natured hours to serve ourselves.

We establish it as a lasting rule, that the time to attack a master for more wages is when he is drunk, which nobody has so good an opportunity of seeing as ourselves ; and that if he is a single man and of an amorous disposition, it is no bad season when we have been the means of bringing a pretty girl to him : we speak now of m——rs, b——ps, st——n, and those in power, who

who have pretty snug places and sinecures at their disposal.

We further make it a law of this assembly, and will stand by it as such with lives and fortunes (such as we have) that adultery is no crime, and that a mistress who will grant the favour is no bad situation for a servant, because 'tis having a woman without expence; and for the sake of having you near her, she will always contrive to make the place very valuable, as long as you chuse to stay in it.

We agree, that a servant at fifty seems to be a figure quite out of character; and that therefore every servant who does not feather his nest before that time, is a fool or a madman.

We acknowledge no supremacy of our masters but to their faces. We agree on no allegiance but to the gentlemen of this society; and that whatever

they order (the number being to be made up of those who made fortunes of not less than a 1000l. and are now independent cornchandlers, publicans, &c. from past services) must be right, even tho' it be to ruin the peace of the families we live in, or squander their fortunes if it lies in our power.

Signed, &c.

The number present were not great, but in a short time they increased so, from a good liking to the scheme, that few hospitals could shew more governors even in the city, where the word governor sounds as important as the title of colonel in a country village. The president was also one who had from a living jumped into a coach, and as Hudibras and myself said before, he also

———“ Took his stand

“ Upon a widow's jointure land.”

There

There were eight vice-presidents agreed on, all reputable tradesmen, who had spent their youth in servitude, but had got *wherewithal* at last, as they say, to live comfortably. A great chair (ornamented as high as that which tragedy heroes compose themselves in at a theatre royal) was ordered to be made, and the motto (which past nem. con. in the assembly) was the old one of

“ Service is no inheritance.”

Proper books were ordered for the better regulation of the society, and they were indorsed as properly; one was called the Grumbler, marked A. where all complaints of places were registered, that the master might never have a servant from their number; a second marked B. was christened the Intelligencer, which minuted down all sorts of private histories in families re-

lating to their circumstances, their happiness, their generosity, and so forth; a third was named *the fortunate*, wherein were mentioned at length, the several stratagems by which many had to their knowledge arrived at very good fortunes, not only by marriage, but by deaths of masters, and forging his hand to a bond for arrears of wages, &c. &c. &c. a fourth was properly enough called *doomsday*, in which were put down all those who, by breaking the rules of the club, were set down never to *rise* by any recommendation of theirs: there was a fifth, in which were inserted the names of all those who had invented any new trick or finessè to deceive their master or mistress, together with the prize money they had received as a reward for their industry: the rest were like other society's cash-books, *addenda*
and

and *agenda*, in true imitation of the very mimic societies in and about London.

The vestry-clerk was employed but a little while, as they found among their vast number one who had been bred at Christ's Hospital, and wrote a tolerable good hand. He was a butler to some nobleman; and in compliment to the honour they had done him in making him stand secretary to the society, he entertained them all with claret out of his master's cellar; and towards the heel of the evening, when the company drew themselves into a small circle, he even sent home for Burgundy, Champagne, and white Florence, Nice wine, and several others by way of *bonne bouche*, as he called it: at which time they all drank success to the society till they could drink no longer, with the further addition of *Confusion to their masters and mistresses*—and

some (what they call) sentimental toasts ; namely, the motto of the chair, that *service is no inheritance, take time by the lock and your mistress by the smock*, with many others which may appear to more advantage in another place.

C H A P. XXVI.

THE news soon spread of the erection of a society which promised great success to the fraternity, and great mortification to the gentry, which is the joy of such an establishment. The intent of their first meeting, was to have faithfully heard the rise and progress of one l—— G——, mentioned in a former chapter, who had been of their fraternity once, tho' now he was *in good bread*, as the saying is. But, as they could not expect to hear the account from himself, they attended

tended to have it at second-hand from his fellow servant, who was made at once a *vice-president* to this very honourable society: but, as this person was for a few days on a journey with a former master into Berkshire, they were obliged to amuse or employ themselves with other subjects; and a motion being made that every one then present (who was lucky in the profession) should mention the steps which led to his advancement; it became the business of one whole evening, to hear the several accounts of the society then assembled.

The chairman brandishing his hammer with the importance of a L—d, C——k, or a W —m J——s G——r in some city coffee-house, and by one stroke commanding silence, began—

You have succeeded by honourable or dishonourable means in the profession you now are in, which, tho'
pub-

publicly despised and laughed at, we *privately* know to be a very good and profitable one ; tell us, in order as you fit, how you first rose to the honours you now enjoy, by being butlers and *maitres d'hotel* from common livery servants ; and you will gain the approbation of this honourable society. Bègin, Mr. J——s 'till the arrival of the right honourable L——e G——r, Esq; who must have a preference in case he ever will appear among us ; and in his absence the person daily expected, who so well knows his history.——

Gentlemen,

As I have the honour to sit next the chair, and believe I have as much to impart to this worthy society as any member (being very willing to wave all rank and preference of place and situation, whenever any one can lay in a better claim to speak not by experience more
than

than abilities) I will beg leave to inform them that I was the bastard of a S—h m——r (one of the elect) on the body of a servant maid at a snuff-shop, now and then the sign of the Highlander near the B—h coffee-house Charing-Cross. I can answer for nothing of myself till about eight years old unless by hearsay, which I would not have any honourable member of this society to depend on: but my memory be-friends me very well at the age of eight or nine years old; and from that time I will recollect (with all deference to more worthy speakers) what passed in the road to my present advancement.

At about nine years old, having learned to read and write very little, (considering the pains taken by the master and mistress of the charity-school where I was placed) I thought it better to gain an insight into those
parts

parts of education which constitute a fine gentleman; therefore one of the daughters of my master learning to dance twice a week, I had an opportunity, while I was blacking shoes, often to peep through the key-hole, and see how my young mistress went round the room *at twice*, by way of minuet: I was so observing of it, that in a few months I well remember I could excel her. On this I ran away from school, read an advertisement about myself, with proper descriptions, without changing colour, and entered the society of the Middle-Temple as footboy to a young student, who, with a very scanty allowance from his father, thought it necessary, by way of *wife-trap* to make as great a figure as he could. I remember very well, his cutting up a pair of crimson velvet breeches to make *cuffs and collar* for a frock

frock coat I wore, the cloth issuing from an old suit of his own, turned to advantage by a Scotch taylor who worked on a bulk near the gate ; my hat was a cast-off, which had been visible on *one side* of the question for near three summers at Vauxhall, Ranelagh, the Park, Gray's-Inn, and both the Temple-Gardens ; my other ornaments he ran *a tick* for, as the reputation of an estate hereafter gave him great advantages of this kind for himself and others : I mean in the articles of shoes, boots, lace, stockings, and linen. Well ! I was happy ! my mind was quite innocent, and untainted with the tricks and plans of my brethren ; and I used to rise early and go to bed late, without ever thinking of wages or vails, so long as I had cloaths and necessary food : but, in less than six months, an old *stager* told me, I might get three pounds

pounds a year standing wages, besides *vails*, if I would look about me; and he promised me, if I would quit the place, that he would get me immediate employ. But how, says I, (then innocently) can I do this? my master is very kind; and as he has no inclination to part with me, I don't well see how I can part with him. Oh! says he, you are young indeed. Why I'll tell you the whole secret among us: break his glasses or his favourite china; spill chocolate on his best stockings, as if by an accident; lame his horse; be out of the way at chamber-hours, when he wants you; if he loves boiled milk for breakfast *burn it to*—; fill his bottle or jug with stale water; leave a great deal of powder on his cloaths and dirt on his boots; and when he, tho' ever so gently, reprimands you, say—Why, Sir, I see with all my care and diligence I
can't

can't please you, and therefore should be glad to quit your service ; I had rather be upon the wide world than live to displease you. On which you part : you get your desired ends, he cannot see them ; and so all ends with giving a character for another place, which he will give you, if 'tis only to shew that he keeps a servant, or an apology for one.

I practised the scheme of my *Nestorean* friend, who was grey-headed in the politics of servants ; and with reluctance, as being the first of the kind, I told him I should leave his service. I brought this about by the methods just now prescribed, namely, by being careless and slovenly in my work ; and so my trouble and difficulty in effecting it was not extraordinary. Accordingly I left him ; and hearing of a druggist, who was made a common council man lately,
and

and who was told it became him to set up an equipage of a footboy, he engaged me immediately. I was at first in hopes that I was only to pad along before his lady's sedan to city-feasts, and dancing evenings; but I too soon found that my new livery was only to be worn on *gaudy* days, for that I was to answer the treble end of feeding and dressing his chair horse, beating in the mortar, and attending his spouse as the *stand by clear the way* to her chairmen. I foresaw it would not last long, so I made myself tolerably patient, while I privately enquired out a better place unknown to him, having a recipe at hand always to get away from any service, thanks to my grey-headed and most experienced adviser. It was scarce three months, when, tired of seeing him selling a worse commodity to his most intimate friends and relations than to
com-

common strangers, I contrived to leave his house, by blacking his shoes with oil on a lord mayor's day, by which means his *Sunday* white stockings were irrevocably and irrecoverably spoiled; and his wife's best silk petticoat spotted, so as to be sent to the *dyer's* for a metamorphosis, which is no uncommon one within the sound of Bow-bell, or the hammers of *St. Dunstan's*.

Though my surly common-council man of a master gave me but a middling sort of a character, I got a tolerable good place with an alderman. There was very early a wedding in the family of one of his daughters, which, tho' it appeared an advantageous thing, was in the end very unlucky to me. To tell you the truth, the vails flew about faster than ever I knew them since for so short a time. So flushed with a purse of about six guineas (ob-
tained

tained by these lucky hits) I thought I could be a gentleman and see a month or two's plays, and live at nobleman's tables ; and so I gave warning, on some frivolous account, according to the old plan. Accordingly I went from him ; but in a few days had an alderman's fever, occasioned by the excess of eating and drinking at the wedding and some few days after it, and which I did not suspect ; by which means I was out of place and unemployed, till not only my little purse of vails was exhausted, but what is worse, till I had run myself in debt half as much more. It was the first time that ever I heard such an appellation for a disorder of this kind : but the apothecary, who shook his head over me, told the nurse that it was an *alderman's* fever I had, and therefore little hopes offered of my recovery : on which the foolish nurse told the whole

secret, that the place I last left was an alderman's, and that I had been in a good place, but for this accident as in so short a time (by means of a wedding) I had got near *six guineas*. This was an unlucky stroke on me; for the apothecary had proposed taking nothing of me before, whereas now (like a true citizen) he said that his time was valuable, his drugs cost him money, and that he had expended a great deal of money before he had got himself into any kind of business. However, I'll do himself the justice to say, that he gave me time to pay the remainder (after I had given him the whole six guineas) on passing my note to him, and mentioning that it was to bear lawful interest. Well! my health was restored; and I went to live with an eminent dancing-master, where I learned many accomplishments which indeed

indeed served me hereafter, and helped me to the happiness and fortune I now enjoy. The poor gentleman in less than six months died. He was fond of state and shew, and *keeping it up*, as the folks say; and so I luckily always passed as his gentleman, or *valet de chambre*, by which means I got not only footing in the best families where he taught, but often, where it was unknown, taught young ladies of my own gaining, having acquired a sufficient knack at the violin, not only to play the necessary minuet, but often to catch the ears of my scholars afterwards. To make short of the affair, on the death of my master I set up publicly, taught his very scholars, was impudent enough to find fault with his manner and method, and began a new one myself, till by degrees I got to the pitch of income I now am arrived at, and by this means
married

married a scholar of my own; by which means I sit in a coach when I used to ride behind, and put shillings into those hands who, but for the wheel of fortune, might have put them into my own.

On his ending his history (in which there were many particulars relating to change of places which I shall not trouble the reader with) it was ordered, that the thanks of the court should be sent to him for his kind services and friendly information, and that he may be desired to be perpetual chairman of the committee, the better to encourage beginners to arrive at the same honour and dignity.

The next in turn, tho' not so great in life, was what we call *a warm one* in the world; and he rose with all deference to any member more worthy (even tho' it was his immediate turn)

and he began his history as follows.

I was imagined to be the son of an after l—d c—r when he was a young templar, on the person of his laundress's daughter. I knew neither father nor mother ; and the first circumstance in life that I recollect, was being a chimney-sweeper's boy, and what they called a *stove boy*, that is, one of the exact mould and shape for ascending the smallest chimney. As I increased in bulk and stature my master slighted me, half starved me, and turned me out one hard winter's night, where, seeking for a lodging, I met with a friend, who took me home to his lodging in Marigold court, where next morning I saw on a board this strange inscription, *Lodgings for single men very cheap, with a proper draw-back and allowance, if they are out in the day time.* I was much

much puzzled at first to know how to understand this strange account of the house and people who inhabited it; when I found that watchmen, who are out all night, are glad of cheap lodgings in the day time, such as these; and they sally forth again long before the others return home at night.

By this friend's instructions and advice, I got to be pot-carrier to a very principal beer-house in Covent-Garden; from whence, as I grew taller and more improved, one of the inferior players took me to himself to wait on him, by which means I often had fine opportunities of seeing plays gratis, with the concurrent pleasure of music and dancing. I watched every thing very close; let slip no opportunity of improving myself, and by degrees raised myself to such a fashionable pitch for bowing, taking snuff, delivering messages,

sages, dancing, fencing, riding the great saddle (the three latter of which I gained from troopers and life guard men) that I soon began to look about me for a place equal to my abilities; and indeed soon found one with an officer in the guards, who made the best figure with his pay only that ever I knew in any one: but I soon got behind the curtain of the secret, and found that a few d—ffes, c—ffes, and ladies of fashion (unhappy in the chain of wedlock) were better friends to him than his military skill, which was indeed allowed to be the most considerable of any one in the corps. He was very careless about his letters and papers, often leaving his key in the drawers, and oftener putting them in his pocket, which ever fell to my lot to read, whenever his cloaths were to be changed or dusted. I began now to
take

take the hint myself, and looking at myself in the glass, I burst out into some lines of king *Richard's*, in the tragedy, very apposite to my purpose—

—By heavens I do mistake me all the while :

Why she finds out, perhaps, altho' I cannot

Myself to be a marvellous proper man.

I now made the glass my daily practice ; I bowed, took snuff at it, danced, and in short liked myself so well, that I declare I began to think every day a lost one, in which I did not write or receive a letter from some woman of fashion, tho' unknown : for at first I began by advertising, writing letters of honourable marriage, and treaties of that kind, and very often had favourable answers. I had the old newspaper jargon all at hand ; that honour

and secrecy might be depended on, and begged an answer, tho' even in my disfavour: add to this, that by vails I could now better equip myself with linen, shoes, stockings, &c. &c. &c. for the master I then lived with, when I made my fortune, allowed us to wear our shoulder-knots with a hook; and indeed our cloaths were more like gentlemen, than half what are worn as such. I again quoted my favourite character of Richard, and said with him, that

Since I am crept in favour with
myself

I will maintain it with a little cost.

I will employ a score or two of tay-
lors

To study fashions to adorn my body.

Well! gentlemen, for I see a worthy and honourable member waiting to
relate

relate his history, I will conclude by informing you, that I soon married a widow with a tolerable fortune of about 3000l. by which means I entered trade as a cornchandler, having seen in many great families what profits are got by it; and I can not only say that I wear as good linen, woollen, and lace as the first commoner can, but that I have two dishes at my table every day, good liquors in my cellar, and money out at use, to promote the welfare of any member of this honourable society; and if smaller favours are only wanted, my table shall ever be open to them all whenever they are out of place; for I think, while they continue in place, they are wrong to tire their friends, when our great pleasure ought to be not to *spare* but *consume* our several masters fortunes as much as we possibly can. I have only one thing more to

H 4

add

add (and beg pardon for delaying my next neighbour a few moments more) and that is, with all my soul I do most firmly believe, that had I not been in an hurry I might have married twice as well; and recommend it most particularly to the young, the handsome, and the accomplished in this way, that they may all do better than myself, if they have but a little patience, for men are scarce and widows are *loving*: and was I to begin the world again, I would not bate a shilling of 10,000l. of lawful money of Great Britain, because I know and am convinced it may be easily obtained; for what is much to our advantage, the gentlemen of the present age are very illiterate, in just proportion as we are improved; and I am sure, take away that advantage and the footman, as the *jack gentleman* has the assurance to call us, is a better
and

and *founder* man for a widow or a maid, than half the motley-bred gentry in this vast metropolis.

He sat down with great applause; and the thanks of the house were also ordered to him in the usual forms, which he accepted as his due.

Gentlemen,

The first part of my life has such a sameness with and resemblance to the honourable person who spoke last, that I shall skip over every part of it, till I indeed was brought to a friend's home one cold frosty night by a kind humane man, and suffered to sleep with him: this was indeed favour enough; I had no right to expect further, being quite a stranger, and I may say a kind of *grown foundling*.

Having no cloaths as yet (tho' my friend who brought me home with him said he would soon accommodate

H 5

me

me with some of his, properly altered) I was determined to be out in the day-time (agreeable to my inclinations and my friend's agreement) and get a livelihood for myself, my spirit, tho' so early in life, being too great to trouble him for any thing but lodging, and of course a good protection; for boys who are out late at night, are liable to many persecutions.

Well! I soon wriggled myself also into a public-house, by singing a ballad at their door which I had learned of a *stove-boy* when we swept together; and the people of the house, after some questions of and about me, told my name to the woman, who shewed some pity towards me. On this the master grumbled, and said—What, you think bread and cheese cost nothing; I suppose that you stuffed that ragged dog's stomach with the best! What, 'tis your

me-

methodists that teach you to ruin me, but they shant't: I know they have a text for every thing; and I suppose here they tell you, that *he who gives to the poor lends to the Lord*; but I'll not trust *any Lord* with my commodities, unless they will pay down the ready, as we call it, and *no Birminghams*.

Why, my dear, says his meek lady, I will do as I please, you know: as to any words between ourselves, I laugh at them you know of old; but since you have had the impudence to attack my dear religion, for which I would freely lay down my life, d—n me if the poor boy shall not only stuff his stomach, as you call it, with the best the house affords, but I will further take him under my roof as pot-carrier, in the room of that wooden-headed ideot you have provided us with, and he shall be cloathed immediately. Now

you know my laws, like those of the *Medes and Persians*, alter not, and so if you are tired of me and my manner, *go look*, my dear : at which words she took the boy by the hand, and said, Well ! don't cry, nor mind that booby of a husband of mine—I'll take care of you ; and if he ever ill uses or ill treats you, let me know it, and I'll lead him a weary life.

I was now entered a pot-carrier without doors and scorer within, and saw much variety soon ; while I sometimes descended cellars or mounted garrets, in search of my master or mistress's *plate*, which is the cant word among us for the pewter we carry out or fetch in from our customers. I have often, even when a boy, laughed most heartily at the airs some of these garreteers would give themselves when they were paying their money ; for when they had
it

it not they were humble enough.

When as how, says one, if your master does not keep a better commodity, I shall make very short of it and turn him off: my money is as good as my lord mayor's, and I expect a penny-worth for my penny, or you know the consequence; the company I keep are very polite people, and very curious in their liquor; so mend your manners, tell your master, or I'll mend myself.

I early in life saw that power was the most prevailing passion of the human mind; for these people, by forming parties, have before now spoiled the trade of very good houses, and have punished with the glee and satisfaction of a prime minister. But to my story.

I continued in this house a full year and rather longer, when observing from the numberless footmen and footboys who used the house, that their way of
life

life seemed easy, that they wore good linen, good pumps, good cloaths, and had always a great deal of ready money to fling away, for so it may well be called, having frequently known a gentleman's butler, who had the command of his master's beer cellar entirely, sitting here at the rate of a shilling or two a day, at a time I could not account for it: but, besides the very old proverb that *home is homely*, I found out that at home they were but servants, here, forsooth! they were *masters*; and every time they called for a full-pot, the answer was *yes, Sir; Sir, you shall have it, and Sir, I hope the last was to your liking*. The word, Sir! is the trap to catch all their money, all their time, and all the secrets of their families.

My wishes were soon accomplished; for seeing a gentleman's servant at our house out of livery, and finding he
dearly

dearly loved homage and respect, I called him often your honour: on which he one day said, *My lad!* (I shall never forget the joy I received at the sound, it seeming an earnest of something fortunate, tho' I can't describe it) if you are under no contract with your master, I will take you under my care. I am allowed a boy to attend me; and have indeed the management of all the servants in the house, so as to keep or turn them off at my pleasure, I might say royal pleasure, for indeed I am a king.

You may imagine I did not want much intreating to leave a place of this kind, but wanted an excuse to get away: my master I well knew would be glad, my mistress puzzled me; but a good friend told me early, not to have a feeling for any one, and only to love myself, and so sticking a print of

Dr.

Dr. Wh——ld up in the necessary-house (knowing she not only admired but adored him) we quarrelled, and she turned me out of doors with an *inuendo*, that I was a young gallows, and should come to that end: poor woman! she little thought I had secured such a fine retreat.

Well! I went to my new place; and the butler, who, like all servants that can keep one under them, was a tyrant, soon made me look about again. I now began to grow manly; and having learned to tie my former lank hair with a ribband, I found it gave my face a handsome look, and from that very day I determined to market with myself, as well as the best of them. I was now fifteen years of age, and forwarder at those years than many at eighteen.

My

My lady's woman now began to cast an eye towards me, but our wants were very different; she wanted me for a *husband*, I fain would have got her as a *mistress*; for in truth I early designed having a wife of fortune, let her features be what they would; and, like my betters, to keep a mistress in private, and perhaps out of her money too, after the example of all men of wit, fancy, spirit, and fashion. Well! as to Mrs. Betty I temporized so with her, that, during my stay, in hopes I should marry her, she not only made and mended for me, but even found the cloth. This was no bad circumstance, as I had no vails, and of course could have very little pocket-money.

Poor girl! I often look back at the creature: but I think, as it is to the honour of this society, I may tell them that I lay with her, on a promise of marriage

marriage privately, and never before a witness, by which means I had a bed-fellow cheap, and of course a good plea for not making her a wife afterwards: for I pleaded this very circumstance against her, and said (like my betters) that had she refused me, I should have had the highest opinion of her, but that no wise man would marry his w—re, which word I spoke at length, as I knew it would touch her haughty soul and make her despise me. It had this very effect; for she swore she would not marry me if I was a banker, and could feed her with gold every day.

My harsh word, which I repeated over and over again, had the very desired effect; for she fell sick, took to her bed, and died in a few weeks. As she had too much honour to tell the particulars to any one, her death was doubly of service to me; for in the first

first place it was given out, to my great advantage, that all the girls were in love with me; that I was a man who had the most winning and engaging ways; and, as a proof of it, that one young woman had died for love of me.

I do assure you I gained fresh strength on this affair; and having never wore ruffles or lace before, I now put on both, and having learned the necessary qualifications of a valet de chambre, I privately laid myself out for that way of life, and determined to trade on my own private bottom. So quarrelling with my butler-master (for I never knew any other) I quitted him; and having for a month seen the pleasures of London, I went to live with a young gentleman just arrived to a very good estate, of whom I had lucky intelligence from a friend that he was very careless in all his expences; so I hoped for

for fine sort of *pickings* from his tradesmen. What in the very trifling articles of butter, cream, tea, sugar, powder, washballs, silk bags, cards, pen and paper, I think I usually extracted about a *guinea* every week ; and in the larger affairs of wine, marketting, cloaths, and so forth, I think in four years, which was all the time I lived with him, I saved up near 800 l.

It was with this capital, and a very universal acquaintance with gentlemen's servants in general, that I sat up in the cornchandlery way of business : I have throve, gentlemen, as all of you shall be witness of who may want my service, and by marrying a succession of old forsaken maidens, whom providence soon took to himself, I can now assist those who have honourably assisted me ; and have the pleasure at this very time, to have a corner of
some

some gentlemen's estates who formerly have insulted me, and cheated me of many a fair shilling in my vails, by tutoring gentlemen their own way, who before were good chaps enough.

The next in turn pleaded an hesitation in his speech, which he said (for he was a wit) laid such an *embargo* on his eloquence, that he begged to wave his privilege in favour of his next neighbour, and said he would at his leisure put down in writing very faithfully, all that he knew of himself which would be beneficial to this honourable society, and hoped he might be excused mentioning by word of mouth *that*, which he knew would appear to more advantage in black and white. The affair was put to the vote and soon granted: so his right hand neighbour began as follows.

My

My life, gentlemen! has been as strange a medley as ever you have heard or can conceive. I am the son of a felon who pleaded her belly, and at my birth her sentence was fully executed. She had taken the liberty to provide herself with ready money always of her own coining, and being unluckily caught in the fact, she suffered for it.

What was that to me, gentlemen? I was well begot by a trooper, as I have been told, and have throve as well as those who were kittened on velvet beds or in fatten chairs. I have been told many anecdotes of my first childhood; but as the rule of this honourable society is only to repeat what we know ourselves, I shall beg leave to begin with my story from about seven years of age, when indeed I remember every thing very well.

I was at that age so unlucky a dog, as to have at the charity school the nickname of *pickle* : and indeed to this day there are many who still think I have no other. Tired of the formality of masters and mistresses I ran away, enlisted myself with a puppet-show man, and liked that itinerant life so well, that I was near fifteen years old before I quitted it. Change of place is very agreeable ! I have never known that pleasure since. It was here I first learned the rudiments of music, which that they have well improved, may appear that I am now in his majesty's band, and make no bad figure among scholars of the first fashion in the kingdom. My master had me taught to tumble, and by this means I gained a very great addition to my income.

At

At Reading, I very well remember, that from the halfpence on the stage, I made up a very good silver watch, shoe and knee-buckles of the same, and added a lace to my hat, which before had only a gold loop and button. These were great days : I was then esteemed the best *hornpipe* in England, and wish I was so now ; health and limbs are better than gout and riches.

But at fifteen my master, after various trials to live, was unfortunately hanged for forgery ; and his chattels being all forfeit, I had no thoughts of continuing, and so came up to London to try my fortune elsewhere. Musically and theatrically inclined, I immediately sought the play-house, got an order, by dancing a hornpipe in the lobby before some *leading* ones, and from that day was invited to be one of them. My abilities for the fiddle being made known,

known, I got into the orchestra as a *seconde* (which as in the army implies waiting for a dead man's shoes) which I obtained in less than a year after.

My acquaintance increas'ing I got scholars apace, and taught to dance, more to prevent any one else getting footing, than for the difference of the money. - Now and then I composed a ballad, and at last ventured to set my name to it. By this means, tho' I got numberless rubs from the fraternity of the *bow and resin*, yet among families I got more respect than formerly, and was now and then invited to dine where I taught. It was in one of these houses I first saw my lovely *Maria*; I soon found her ruling passion was music, and, having a woman with me who passed for my wife, the better to carry on the plot, I was permitted at all hours, like an old married man, to visit

and be visited by half the young ladies where I taught. *Maria* often sighed when she saw me, and said, what a happy woman my wife must be to have a husband of such amazing qualifications ! Which was a sufficient hint for me to give her the whisper, that it was all a blind to get a better introduction into great families, but that if she felt for me half which I did for her, when I used to squeeze her hand in dancing (and indeed I had felt something particular from her always at that time) I would employ the very person who passed for my wife, to conduct the affair in such a still, safe, and prudent way, as that no one should suspect it. She trembled when I spoke ; but giving her one kiss, I saw a peculiar pleasure in her eyes which I never saw before ; and she gave me to understand, that she had loved me ever since

the day I first danced a hornpipe, to please some ladies who were visiting there. I thought with myself immediately, what silly animals women are in general to be so captivated with outside; but it was my business to pursue and overtake, not to stay and consider. Well, time went on! and now having prepared my seeming wife with the affair (who being an old female friend, for past service wished me success) we always went together when it was the day to teach; and while I went to other families in the street or neighbourhood, she was left to drink tea, dine, play at cards, and forward the affair in question.

Sure nobody could manage better than she did; in less than six months I obtained my prize, touched 12000 l. besides jewels, plate, reversions, remainders (as the law calls those pretty things) and

now, gentlemen, tho' I don't teach scholars, I am not ashamed of being in the k—g's band, or an organist to some capital church; and for this very good reason, that having a visible employ in the musical way, I prevent any enquiries about what I was originally, every body thinking I was a profest master, from the usual age of twenty-one. I most sincerely wish the gentlemen of this honourable society equally good fortune, am come to the point of my happiness, without enumerating a thousand circumstances which I might have done, but that I am cautious of encroaching too much on your time.

Some others were going to rise, but the evening growing into morning, things were postponed till another day, still in hopes of the grand tale of all, on the return of the member from his
Berk-

Berkshire journey, which was the finisher of all good fortune in their way ; as what had been already advanced, was mere playing at *small games*, compared to a seat in parliament, town and country-house, a set of horses, and the title of right honourable. There was as much ceremony at parting, as you could conceive at an installation dinner ; and all gave their *word of honour*, that not one would fail attending next club night, as their attendance seemed to be of such universal benefit to the most honourable society, that ever was set on foot since the foundation of halls and colleges.

The expected person not being yet arrived to give the grand history, it was ordered, that to fill up the intermediate time, the parties assembled who had not yet told their rise and progress should do it. Accordingly the next in

turn began. He was nick-named *Ora-*
tor from his abilities, that way as he
 thought, but it was privately known,
 that the very name was only intended
 as a burlesque, on one who was only
 a pretender to the title.

Gentlemen,

I should but very ill deserve the ho-
 nour of being an unworthy residentiary
 in this worthy assembly, not to take
 the most *abrupt* and *facil* methods, to
 explane to you how I was so *facilitated*
 to arrive at the pitch of glory I am. I
 am a governor of one or two new hos-
 pitals; as the expence of five guineas
 is very trifling to the grand title of go-
 vernor, which (and I can produce let-
 ters and petitions to that purpose) very
 often for shortness sake, gives you the
 further stile and title of *excellency*. But
 to the point. or, as the learned say, *ad*
rem.

I was first *erudited* at a free-school, and my intellectual faculties appearing early very perspicuous, I was put out as a clerk to a merchant; but figures and the *belles lettres* not accruing very well, I soon contrived to have an *eclaircissement* with my friends about the matter, and it was soon agreed, that I was too sprightly and *mercuriale* for trade, and so I changed to be a pupil to a face-painter. My master very generously acknowledging that my turn did not lie that way, I was again *ruf-ticated* at my father's, and they not fixing me to any thing, I led a kind of *amphibious* life there after an *beterodox* manner; so that, in short, at sixteen I was really fit for nothing but the idle life of a servant, which I accepted of rather than hear the *unphilosophical* lectures of two illiterate parents on such an occasion.

My first service was with a country divine, who displeased me soon by not allowing cards in the family, and so we parted. I soon after enlisted with a lieutenant of a marching regiment, who was generous as far as his income would allow, but I wanted to *osculate* and embrace plenty and good fortune, by which means I went to live with a *Jew*. This I may say was my first step to happiness; for, finding no respect was paid to any one but of their own *sentimental* way of thinking, and that converts always bore great respect, I even thought it best to accommodate myself to their methods, and so became one of their *identical* people. I had further views than vails and perquisites; my schemes were very *salubrious* and *salutiferous*, and they answered. It is needless to take up the *volatile* hours of this honourable society, with
men-

mentioning any particulars farther than that I used privately to laugh at the change they imagined had been wrought in me by lectures of all kinds ; let it suffice, that in less than two years a young Jewess, who was an orphan, began to *ruminate* her eyes upon me as I used to attend her in the garden ; for being lame, she was often *circulated* about in a kind of Windsor chair set upon wheels. I soon contrived, by great tenderness to her person, to claim this office to myself entirely : and she I found soon contrived that I should be the only person. To make short of an affair which I could make a kind of *longitude* of, were I willing to take up your time, I in two years attendance obtained her, and with her such a fortune (had not the court of c——y *emaciated* it by their cursed *interposition*) that I might now have rode in my

coach and six. However, gentlemen, I live as it is like a nobleman, but am sorry I can't *diffuse* my fortune among the *dignified* people of our fraternity; for tho' I have married a Jew my heart is a Christian, and I will osculate and embrace any distressed member or his friend whenever I am asked.

Upon his sitting down nobody seemed in the least displeased, when his right hand man arising, the hammer proclaimed silence, and he began.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to be a member of this honourable society, and have the further honour to be desired by Mr. Chairman, to relate what I can of the several steps and stages to the good fortune I now enjoy. I most willingly undertake it: and this the rather, as I believe my methods have been different from the common ones, and
tho'

tho' not to be recommended to others, may, I suppose, be repeated in safety here, as our appellation is *men of honour*.

I was the son of a Temple-ticket porter, as it is said; but I rather think my mother, who was a famous and fashionable laundress at that time of the day, had better assistances than drunken Tom, as my father was generally called: be that as it will I was well born, well taken care of, and afterwards well educated.

But unluckily as it might have happened, tho' indeed it has happened otherwise, I got to be a footboy to a person who appeared, by dress and behaviour, to be a gentleman. He kept a brace of geldings, had chambers in the Temple, by way of security and finesse to the world, and never let me know or even suspect his way of life, till it was found out and he suffered.

This almost brings tears in my eyes. He was hanged at Tyburn at 25 years of age.

It used to puzzle me, that tho' we always fate off together from the *King's-Bench* walks, and perhaps rode some few miles afterwards, that he would bid me wait at an inn till he returned. I ever thought that a servant would give him rank and honour on the road, and used to wonder, that as he was at the expence of cloathing, maintaining and keeping me and my horse, he was wrong not to let the world know it.

But at these times he was always engaged in his profession, which I then was ignorant of; and when he called on me again he then, by putting on his *Huffar's* great-coat, which I always kept ready for him, and my following him as his servant, blinded the world
so

so at his entrance into London, that for many years nobody suspected it.

He would sometimes (having been called to the bar) wear the gown to Westminster-Hall by way of apology; and many a time have I wrote names on paper, as if they were briefs and matters of business. He dined at good ordinaries, kept the best company, and dressed better than any gentleman in the place.

Eager to obtain a lady in marriage, he most unfortunately robbed the mail: for this he suffered; and when he was committed, the judges being all on the circuit, he lay in Newgate several weeks; and it was then he unboisomed himself in so kind and friendly a manner.

I can't live, says he, you may; and believe me, in this great city, that no trade is like that which I followed
and

and might have followed still, but, eager to intercept a letter of consequence, I am come to this untimely end, not that I am sorry ; for, agreeable to Mr. Gay,

Life's a jest and all things shew it,
I thought so once, and soon shall
know it.

Notwithstanding I saw his fate before my eyes, I could not resist the temptations of a pair of geldings, fine cloaths, women, tavern-supper, &c. &c. &c. and so boldly entered on the way of life. My success, without mentioning particulars, was so great, that I believe I have not less than 6000 l. out at interest, and have my fortune to make still by marriage. I have no horses at present, and run no hazards. I frequent gaming tables ; and there is much to be got that way, which is *securely*

curely done. I can't say I ever very much enjoyed myself in my other station; and what pleases me most is, that I never robbed the needy, only the rich; nor have I half so much to answer for in my conscience, as half the petti-fogging attornies in N—k.

I do really believe, that I should have continued in this way of merchandize to my dying day it was so tempting, but that providence or fortune threw an odd thing in my way, which at once opened my eyes and startled me.

I have kept sometimes five or six saddle horses, and often used to accommodate a friend with one; but lately I had only two, and that day wanted them both: an acquaintance sent to borrow one, to which I answered that I had never a one. He was a man of wit, and said to the fellow, Why! 'tis very odd, I have known your master
in

in the *worst* of times, when he had half a dozen, and now he thrives, he has not one forsooth. Whether he meant it or no I can't pretend to say, but it struck me like a *memento mori*, and I quitted at once all thoughts of further traffic that way.

I depend on the honour of this worthy society in not divulging this, and having nothing further to offer, will not take up their time any longer.

Gentlemen,

My life, by travelling and moving about (having ever been of a roving disposition) is so very various, that I am almost puzzled when and where I should begin. However, as the recitals you seem to require, are only those which lead to the benefit and not the amusement of this most honourable society, I will be as concise as possible.

I

I was born in a camp at the latter end of queen Anne's reign, and how my father could subsist me and three more of us, besides my *honoured mother* for six pence a day I can't possibly devise ; but so it is that I am alive and well, and as well boned and finewed as any gentleman's son in England, and believe much better than half the race of nobility. The first circumstance I remember in my life, was driving the ass along in which my two dear sisters and my worthy brother used to be carried on ; and indeed it was latterly my office to pack them up for the day, like stone-bottles with the heads and necks appearing above the straw.

I can well remember the flinty-hearted people up and down the several countries we travelled, refusing us common husks almost, which were only the food of their swine ; and I always
re-

remembered, that in the end they were truly penny wise and pound foolish; for my honoured father and mother always marked the place, and whenever we passed in the evening, their ducks, their pigs, their poultry, their eggs, or their fish generally punished them, and made us most ample amends.

As I had something of a voice, I was soon beat into the art of singing; and many a severe pummelling have I had for not knowing the last new tune as soon as another. We traffic'd in a little earthen ware, which indeed was only a cloke and covering to some smuggled tea, or half an anchor of the best stuff of France, for the private bed-chambers of farmers wives and country squires upper servants.

I now drew on towards the age of nine, and was rather lusty of my age
than

than otherwise. Walking about without stockings all my life, I had as good a leg as an Irishman, and for the very same reason. I was also very lithsome in the back, owing to thin apparel, and not much of that: so that, in other words, I was little better than a naked youth, and as rough as the wild one who was shewed at that time for a monster.

A mountebank, who was haranguing at Salisbury in praise of his medicines, enlisted me about this time in a manner too humane not to be expressed. He quartered at the same inn our family put up at; and my honoured father and mother having had a battle among themselves, the revenge of both in their turn was thrown on poor pilgarlic; and I was severely bruised for having left some ballads at a window in the alehouse where a monkey had found them, and tore them to pieces.

I believe the damage at prime cost might be six-pence ; for tho' there were near an hundred of them, they were stale and old fashioned ones, having been sung at Ranelagh and Vauxhall some years ago.

Upon my crying out in a very loud manner, the doctor (who was privately bleeding his own horse in the next stable, he having been bred a farrier) overheard me, and stepping in at the peril of his cloaths, if not his life, parted us. Overtures were soon made ; and he bought me as regularly for a shilling wet and a shilling dry as any horse, ox, or ass were ever bought at a country fair. My honoured parents from this day never set eyes on me ; and it was some years after that I heard my dear parents were both transported (after having been three times whipped round Covent-Garden market) for stealing potatoes

tatoes from an Irish fruit shop thereabouts.

My master very soon employed me in the physical way, and often said, you young bastard mind your hits, let nothing slip you ; you may soon make your fortune was I to die, while there are fools enough to buy (which there always will be in country places) You may find medicines to sell at the small profit of 95 per cent. which words, tho' I did not then fully understand, were easily made true to me in after-life, when I came boldly to trade for myself. Having some little humour about me I succeeded his Merry-Andrew ; and brought many a fair pound into the chest by jokes, which occurred as regularly to me by practice as oaths to a soldier. I also tumbled a little, spoke tragedy speeches on the stage, and in short, would turn my back to
no

no one in the art of a doctor's *jackall*, as the term is, among themselves ; for as that little beast is the *provider* to the great lion, we are the collectors of good dinners and suppers to these greater creatures itinerant physicians.

Much about this time my master's fire-eater left him. This was then a new trick, and of course not much *backneyed in the eyes of men*, as master Shakespear says of something else. My master now proposed my succeeding to this right honourable post ; but my fears obliging me to refuse it, at least for the present, we had a severe quarrel : and upon his telling me that I could eat mutton fast enough and good English beef, I thought it such a stain on my honour, that I ran away from him ; and I had the private satisfaction (which revenge is too apt to give all all young minds) to find, from various
chan-

channels of intelligence, that he never throve afterwards; and about a year afterwards, passing over to Wales in the common boat with a Welch judge, his lordship's baggage horse kicked him: he had a mortification—and died soon after.

The world was now before me; I was young and active; I longed to hear of my dear sisters and brothers welfare, but could not without finding out my honoured parents, whom indeed I never expected or desired to see again. My spirit was too great to be a servant as I now drew near to manhood; and so, tho' I had various offers to follow strolling companies as their drummer or violin, and occasionally to act an under gentleman or a thief (which is near the same) I entered into partnership with a conjurer, and by fortune-telling and cups and balls, we not only lived well but

but even saved a good deal of money.

After some success this way, and indeed too great to hold long (as I ever feared) I got a justice's maid with child in Devonshire, and on my absolutely refusing to marry my *concubine*, as I very unluckily called her before his face, he, who hated wit, said I was a vagabond within the act, and sent me to Bridewell for a year, as he thought : but, knowing the tricks of a tumbler, I threw myself unhurt from the upper story upon a dunghill, and made off for England's great city.

It was here I first entered a young gentleman's service ; and I soon found, that tho' the common saying is that *service is no inheritance*, yet while it lasts it is a tolerable maintenance. My master kept much company, and taking in the news-papers, I frequently
read

read myself advertised, till tired of the expence they left off, and so all my fears were over; for London is a large place, says I, and if I am forced to shift my place, I am as great a stranger in the next street, as if I changed France for Germany, or England for America.

My master being very careless in all his household affairs, and very much between town and country, I had rare pickings; for seven years I lived with him, I never made up more than four shirts, nor even bought six pair of stockings. I kept a pretty *lye-by*, merely by mending and washing his linen: nay, at last (as the foolish simple creature confessed she loved me) I made her pay me the money back whenever my master was so unlucky (for me) to pay her himself: but when he left it to me, you may depend on it she had little enough. She was quick

at her needle, and could get money enough elsewhere. Besides I allowed of her going astray, provided she took care of her health, which indeed by my knowledge of physick, I always instructed her in.

My master, after various ill luck in life, dangling after the court and trying in vain to marry a lady of fortune, died. I knew his hand-writing too well not to take care of myself; and just when he expired I opened his *buroe*, where I found his will. I soon found that what little he had to leave went to strangers and some to hospitals, and that poor I only stood in there for a bare fifty pound. I cast about how to better this, and no one being in the house, I began to think it but right to forge a *codicil*. It is plain, says I, that he loved me a little, even to give me fifty pound. It will appear then very natural,

ral, as I watched him in his last illness, that I might obtain something further; and so I drew up the following, so near his own manner of writing, that it was impossible ever to be found out. Besides, says I to myself, if the hand is a little varied, the excuse and proof is at hand, for they will say that illness had impaired him a good deal: but his name (as I had often counterfeited his franks, he being a member, and sold many a fair hundred at half a crown the dozen) was most excellently imitated. In short, the whole was well managed; and I thought the wording of it artful enough. Have I your orders, Mr. Chairman to repeat—to which the whole room ringing with *aye, aye*, he began, and read it from a paper he had brought for that purpose.

“Whereas by my will, bearing date, and so forth, I did then give to my

good and faithful servant 50l. to be paid with my other legacies, and so forth, which I then thought an equivalent for his care of me, over and above his wages, which have been duly paid, I now, during a very long illness, have so proved his honesty, fidelity, and diligence, that I make a further addition of 500l. to be paid at the same time, and so forth—.”

Sure, gentlemen, this is for the honour of the society ; the family were never in the least suspicious, but only said (as my master was never known to be very gay among the *ladies*) that they wished, for the sake of the deceased person's character, it had not been so as they thought it looked like, purchasing favours too gross to mention. Let them talk what they would—you know I had the cash ; and with 550l. together with near as much, which I
had

had saved from the proper perquisites of a *valet de chambre*, I think I might very well rate myself a 1000l. man.

Service now was at an end. By my early observation with my doctor, I found that the private practice of the physical gentlemen was very advantageous; and so stepping to Scotland, I got the degree of M. D. for about two guineas and a supper, and in a new part of London, began away with a dining-room floor, a footman with a shoulder-knot, and in short, the very first year cleared not only my expences, but made my 1000l. as many guineas.

I now was seen at *Jonathan's*, at *Garraway's*, buying and selling, out of hours of practice; and finding that all the world were ruled by shew and outside, egad I agreed with a stable-keeper for horses at so much the morning or the afternoon; and a coachmaker being

my patient, I so contrived it, that his illness (which was a private one, he being a married man) should be continued till he began to be in a perpetual fear of a *salivation*, and then I made a merit of curing him; he promising me a ready-made chariot then in the warehouse, which I had often cast my eyes on as I passed thro' it to his chamber.

Thus equipt, I drove about, business or no; was seen in every part of London during the day, and often stopped at thoroughfare taverns where I had no business, to make believe I had, ordering my chariot to the other door, which always had the desired effect. The Temple-gate was a constant plying place of mine; nobody could tell whose chambers I went to. It was a pleasant walk thro' it; and my chariot meeting me at the other end, it appeared, you know,

know, in two places, which, you know, had a double advantage.

I now, gentlemen, draw near the period I am now in. I thrive, have married two very rich widows, and am at the head of the private practice in and about this very great metropolis. I own I often had some flings and arrows (as my friend Shakespear says) shot at me by the *regular* troops, who are padding it about the streets like ticket porters, but I laugh ; my motto is--but you may read it at the door ; and you'll there see a coat of arms, which cost me a few guineas, blazoned and as valuable as any in England. I went to the proper shop ; my name (if ever I had one) is Campbell, no bad one I assure you, gentlemen. This chariot is ever at the service of any member of this honourable society, who wants to make his addresses to a rich widow (of

which there are many) and he shall pass for my relation; I'll protect him; and, as I have not only the reputation of it but am in fact the possessor, they need never fear being laughed at. I will trouble this honourable society no further, as I see a more worthy member inclines to begin, whose history I shall very gladly listen to.

The next who rose in turn, tho' not so lucky as the preceding ones, yet, says he, I hope to prove that my merits are not less, I mean in the necessary practice of cheating one's master: with the same dexterity that I used to extract shillings, I could very easily have got pounds; but it never was my lot to live with very rich masters. What can a man squeeze now from a captain in the Guards for instance, who perhaps has nothing but his pay—trifles, trifles; or from a plain gentleman of 3 or 400l.
per

per annum, mere trifles again: had I ever had the good fortune now to have lived with a duke of C—s, or an earl C—d, when they were all in the meridian of their glory and expence, I should have now been as warm as my neighbour the cornchandler. But in the great chain of beings, some must be happier, because richer than others; this has been my case, and such as my story is (being next in turn) I will faithfully relate it.

I was the son of the country executioner in the west of England (no matter where exactly) and my father himself, after seeing so many examples before his eyes, could not help following them; for he was hanged himself, after executing the office faithfully on others for so many years, on something more than a suspicion of stealing a horse. Upon this I quitted the coun-

try (being about nine years old) and came to this metropolis, first as a helper at an inn yard; when afterwards I rose to the honour of *vice-chamberlain* of the several sleeping rooms, the great chamberlain having undertaken the tap besides his other post; so that in fact he might be said to do his office by deputy.

On this sudden advancement I looked about me, wore better cloaths, better linen, now and then indulged myself in a hot supper, and I may say lived as well as the best of them. But much of the profits of our chambers arising from grave gentlemen, who drive in with a pretty girl now and then, making believe they come from the country, and that their fair companion is their lawful wife, I, like a blockhead, must divulge the secret once, and so lost my place, and was on the wide world

world as much as when my worthy parent was hanged.

However man *proposes* and somebody else *disposes*: while I was meditating a return into the country, with no better view than going to plough and cart, a gentleman, who was going the circuit for the first time, took me with him; and accordingly I not only saw that part of England where his business lay, but got footing as a gentleman's servant, and a character as such, in case I chose to follow that way of life, which they all agreed was a very profitable one. Accordingly I fate out, tho' I soon found that my business, like that of an eastern eunuch, was to guard a fine girl who travelled with him, but always lay short of the town some few miles, by way of saving appearances—and it was my lot always to attend her. I soon found that, like many others of

my acquaintance since, the person who paid her was not the favourite ; for she often granted favours to his clerk, which I believe she refused to him.

On our return from the circuit, I soon found that I was to be turned adrift, and why ? because I refused madam a certain favour, out of an *affectation of modesty*, she said ; for, says she, I know, you scoundrel dirty dog, that you lay with the cook at the Eagle and Child in Northampton, when you waited a day on account of your master's letters. You think I know nothing ! I would have you to know, that I know all your haunts, you sanctified sheepish puppy, and that I am meat for the first duke in this or any other kingdom, tho' I condescended like a fool to submit to you. *Away, avaunt, hence from my sight, let the earth hide thee ; thy bones are marrowless and*
thy

thy blood is cold—: and know, says she further, that

Hell has no fury like a woman scorn'd.

You must know she was then, and had been for some years, an underling player, and in the most common cases vented her rage in buskin. To tell you the truth, I had some little turn for the stage, and getting into a company for a few months, I saw such scenes as would not be believed were I to relate them. My abilities I found I was mistaken in, and so I quitted, having never arrived higher in the noble art and mystery, than one of the dumb senators in Othello, or a thief in the Beggar's Opera.

Well! my best pursuit then was a gentleman's service: I found one, a good honest retired old courtier; from him I learned to be complaisant to my enemies,

enemies, and never to let any one see or know your real heart ; that all malice was fair play, while it was necessary to ruin the fame, honour, or reputation of any one, especially while the person is a candidate for a post, place, or preferment ; and more particularly if he proposes himself a member for a seat in parliament. All this I learned during my stay with him ; where indeed I got little more than some worldly instructions ; for his income being narrow, he kept a very close house : but his dining-room was as full of pictures and china as an auctioneer's. I found in general indeed, that these kind of people put the best foot foremost, and whatever they eat or drink, they are sure to furnish their houses and cloath their backs well.

I left this gentleman with no other advantage than wages ; for vails he had

none, as no other company but tea-drinkers came to his house ; and as to cloaths, &c. &c. &c. he better knew how to deal with them than they with him ; for I have heard him say, that he always turned his hats and yet sold them, as if they never had been turned, by which means the buyer lost all his hopes of profit, which generally consists in that piece of practice.

However, I got a good character from this place ; and Solomon, you know, says *a good name is better than riches* ; yet I had rather have had more of the *latter* and less of the *former* : at least so it appeared to me at that time ; and now see how things are changed, I have got money enough, and now I would fain have a good reputation. However, I have a decent income, and so the hints of the world can't touch my plain necessities of life ; for
malice

malice is doubly of force when it prevents a man's subsistence, which is often the case.

Be this as it will, on the strength of my good character from the last place, I got another soon, which was a widow gentlewoman of very good fortune. I wish she had lived longer; for in the year I staid with her I marketted, bought her horse-meat, her drugs, and at her death got a legacy of 200*l*. But it was not for nothing I assure you, gentlemen; there were secret services, and I think I deserved better pay: however, she's dead; or as honest Boniface says in the comedy,

She's happy and I'm contented.

I believe, indeed, had she lived I might have married her; but my fortune was never to be great in life. Moderate

derate income was all I ever desired, and what I always have obtained : but there were good pickings of trinkets, books, table-linen, small plate, prints, paintings, and tapestry, at her death, the particulars of which I would not trouble this honourable society with : be it sufficient to say, that it laid the foundation to my present little independency, and is not that trifle the world in general imagine.

At her death I found *service was no inheritance*, according to a very old saying, and accordingly made love to her own and only niece, who, indeed, I thought had inherited all her fortune : but, as you will soon learn, it was not so ! She gave herself great airs. As how, she said, what would the world say, if as how she married a footman. I knew her heart too well to mind this
kind

kind of language, and to make short of a story, which might be a very tedious one if I recited all her tricks and turns, I married her, and with her received a poor 3000*l.* which I found (as she had displeased the old lady) was all she had gained at her hands. However, with this little *modicum* I breathe, tho' I don't live. I keep a small tavern, and have a good running trade. But what I mentioned lately about a good name is, that the report of the world is that I killed my wife with unkindness: —some go so far as to say I starved her—and this has hurt me so in the pursuit of others, that I have never been able to gain another since of a fortune I think I may command—and so agreeable to what I have advanced before, *A good name is better than riches.* There are many further particulars,

culars, but as I see a letter just now delivered to the chairman of the committee, relative, I suppose, to the business of the society, I will take up no more of your time, but refer other particulars, if they are of any consequence, to a future meeting.

It was now put to the vote, if the letter just now received, should be read then or at some other time, and being carried in the affirmative, it was began. The letter, by its name, declared from whom it came, and it was from the very great man of all, whose success was and perhaps would be the greatest of any one in their sphere of life, and whose good fortune had the early subject of this paper, as well as the occasion of this their infant society. But to the letter.—

Gen-

Gentlemen,

I should but very ill merit the amazing success I have found in life, even so as to have a seat in p——t, and be even a p——y c——n did I not fairly acknowledge, that I once was lower than the lowest of our fraternity ; and that now blest with all success, I do not forget the meanest individual of them ; but am both ready and willing to assist them either in my public or private capacity : witness the pains I and my friends have taken to keep off acts of p——t which were intended to affect our body politic and injure our property : such as the heads of an act for limiting the number of us, for taking away vails (the only fund we have to bear up in old age) and other restrictions too tedious to mention.

My rise was very sudden. From the charity school, I immediately was a
kind

kind of page to a young nobleman, who proposed having an equipage after the French manner: but he soon failed in the attempt, was ruined, and my first glory fell with his. From him I found a good master in a private commoner, who had such an affection for fresh new linen, new shoes, and the like, that I not only was well cloathed myself, but even made many a fair pound in the year by the sale of my surplus: these were glorious days. Much about the year 1720, when money was as plenty as promises are now, I remember those times with joy and regret, for the sake of my worthy brethren, that they are not still the same.

Believe me, gentlemen, my heart is with you, and wish I could attend you in person; but the gout prevents my travelling

travelling to London, otherwise, so far from being ashamed of having been one of your number (tho' my enemies may suggest such a thing) I am proud to own it, and always shall. I know I have been misrepresented in this very particular; but I can and will prove the contrary, whenever I am called on, and do not in the least doubt clearing up every cloud their malice has thrown over me.

I lived with this gentleman long enough to know that he could not do without me; and so as I grew manly I made my own terms, and insisted if I staid that I should be his gentleman out of livery. He consented; and from that day I fixt my plan, which made me what I am. I suffered no other to come into my head, and perseverance is almost always crowned with success.

My

My master was guardian to the richest heirefs of this kingdom. She was now (luckily for me) scarce eight years old ; it was my lot to attend her to morning walks, morning rides, &c. &c. &c. and having her alone, you may depend on it I took care to make the first ideas of her mind favourable to myself. I managed this with tolerable address ; and all my discourse used to run on the folly of riches, compared to happiness in the married state, to which she ever listened, and, as Othello says,

With a greedy ear devour'd up my
discourse.

When I can have the honour of attending your committee, I will explain myself to more advantage, and come into any scheme that shall further the good of such a society. In the interim I can only say in general, that, by taking

ing advantage of the infant mind of the young lady in question, when of age she chose me ; and tho' her family at first gave themselves airs, and were free of their flights to our honourable profession, I have already lived to see some of them, particularly in the army and church, want even ten guineas, which they have endured the mortification of obtaining at my hands.

Believe me, &c.

The reader is now to be informed, nothing further remaining to be told, that the society is still in being, and more numerous and flourishing than the order of jesuits abroad, or the J—a c—y at home.



F I N I S.

